THURSDAY
July 27, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.177

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

YES BANK

LIFE KO BANAO RICH

It holds the wealth of our experiences.
The memories that we treasure,
the friendships we've earned,
and the happiness we've accrued.
It isn't a statement of how well off we are.
It is a testimony of how well we live.

Imagine the returns we'd get if we'd put
away some joy in it everyday.

A moment here, an indulgence there.
If we were as focused on making memories,
as we are on making money.
As concerned about our own interests,
as we are about interest rates.

Life is the only account that matters the
most. As for the rest, our banking solutions
have it covered.

SAVINGS ACCOUNTS
CREDIT AND DEBIT CARDS
RETAIL AND BUSINESS LOANS
CORPORATE BANKING
FIXED DEPOSITS
WEALTH MANAGEMENT
CURRENT ACCOUNTS
MSME BANKING

YES BANK is committed to build a sustainable tomorrow
with our core focus on Environmental Social Governance (ESG)

S&P Global
Highest ESG Score amongst Indian Banks*

CDP
Highest Rated Indian Bank for its
2022 Climate Change Disclosures*

Watch the story behind our logo.

Watch our brand film.

Your existing YES BANK credit card, debit card, passbook, chequebook, and all other deliverables are valid and legally accepted till the end of their respective shelf lives irrespective of change in logo and branding of YES BANK.

*Ratings received in FY 2022-23

yesbank.in

THURSDAY
July 27, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
16 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.177

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

WARNING LETTER

EPFO's IT systems are collapsing, say officers

NEWS » PAGE 8

MANY CONCERNS

UNESCO for smartphone ban in schools

NEWS » PAGE 10

40-YEAR TENURE ENDS

Cambodian PM Hun Sen to step down

WORLD » PAGE 11

DATA POINT

The fallout of India's ban on rice export

33 nations hit hard; the U.S. is not one of them

OPINION » PAGE 7

NEW CHALLENGE

India-West Indies ODI series from today

SPORT » PAGE 13

AI-based cameras deployed on expressway

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Additional Director-General of Police (Traffic and Road Safety) Alok Kumar said Artificial Intelligence (AI)-based cameras had been deployed on the Bengaluru-Mysuru Expressway on a trial basis to capture overspeeding cases.

"Inspected the progress of road safety related work on Bengaluru-Mysore Expressway. AI based cameras deployed on trial basis to capture over speeding," Mr. Alok Kumar tweeted.

He told reporters here on Wednesday that speed limit has been displayed at several places. While it is 100 kmph for the right lane, it's 80 kmph for the middle lane, and 60 kmph for the left lane. Violators will be booked and penalised, he said.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 5

No-trust motion against Modi govt. admitted in LS

Speaker Birla convenes meeting of floor leaders today to schedule debate after Congress's Deputy Leader Gogoi moves no-confidence motion; Opposition wants PM to speak on Manipur situation

Sandeep Phukan
NEW DELHI

The stage is set for a high-profile clash between the Opposition and the Treasury benches, as Lok Sabha Speaker Om Birla on Wednesday admitted a no-confidence motion against the Modi government, which was moved by the Congress's Deputy Leader in the House Gaurav Gogoi in a bid to force the Prime Minister to speak in Parliament on the Manipur conflict.

Admitting the motion, Mr. Birla informed the Lok Sabha that he would schedule a debate after consulting leaders of all parties. Sources said the Speaker had convened a meeting of floor leaders of all parties on Thursday.

Show of support: Speaker Om Birla conducting the Lok Sabha proceedings amid protests. ANI

When the Lok Sabha reconvened at noon, after a brief disruption during the Question Hour, the Speaker informed the House that he had received a notice from Mr. Gogoi, "expressing a want of confidence in the Council of Ministers under Rule 198". Asking the Assam MP to seek the permission of the House to move the motion, Mr. Birla took a head count of members backing the motion. It is mandatory to have the backing of at least 50 MPs for a no-trust motion to be admitted. Congress Parliamentary Party chair Sonia Gandhi, the National Conference's Farooq Abdullah, and the DMK's T.R. Baalu were among those who stood up for the count.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8
RELATED REPORTS
» PAGE 8

Citing FATF, Centre urges SC to let Mishra continue as ED chief

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Wednesday agreed to hear on July 27 an urgent application moved by the Centre to allow Enforcement Directorate (ED) Director Sanjay Kumar Mishra to continue in office till October 15.

A Supreme Court judgment on July 11 directed Mr. Mishra, who is in his fifth year as ED Director, to quit office by July 31.

The top court had concluded that Mr. Mishra's continuance at the helm of the ED on his third consecutive extension, till November 2023, was illegal.

However, the court, on July 11, gave the government time till July 31 to find a replacement for Mr. Mishra. The leeway was given by the court, taking into consideration the government's submission that Mr. Mishra's presence was necessary for the ongoing evaluation by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

> At this critical juncture it is essential to have an individual well-acquainted with the overall status of money laundering probe at the helm of ED
>
> GOVT. IN SUPREME COURT

On Wednesday, appearing before a Bench headed by Justice B.R. Gavai, Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta, for the Centre, sought an urgent listing of its application seeking the extension of Mr. Mishra's tenure from July 31 to mid-October, 2023 "in view of the ongoing FATF review which is at a critical stage".

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

NEARBY

Metro trial run from K.R. Pura to Baiyappanahalli

BENGALURU
Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. conducted the much-awaited first trial run between K.R. Pura and Baiyappanahalli metro stations on Wednesday. » Page 2

Row over Home Minister's letter

BENGALURU
A letter written by Home Minister G. Parameshwara to the Home Secretary to take "suitable action" on senior Congress MLA Tanveer Sait's letter, which requested the withdrawal of cases against "innocents" in riot cases, has caused a stir.
» Page 4

Bill proposes birth record digitisation

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

India has taken the first step to generate digital birth certificates, which will be an all-encompassing document that can be used for admission to educational institutions, jobs, passports or Aadhaar, voter enrolment, registration of marriage, and others.

This will "avoid multiplicity of documents to prove date and place of birth", according to the Registration of Births and Deaths Amendment Bill, 2023, tabled in the Lok Sabha on Wednesday.

Centralised register

The Bill proposes to make it obligatory for States to register births and deaths on the Centre's Civil Registration System portal, and to share the data with the Registrar General of India, which functions under the Union Home Ministry.

It said a centralised register "would help in updating other databases resulting in efficient and transparent delivery of services and social benefits." The Bill would "insert provisions for digital registration and electronic delivery of certificate of births and deaths for the benefit of public." The new rules will apply to all those born after the Bill becomes law.

It proposes to "collect Aadhaar numbers of parents and informant, if available, for birth registration". It will also "facilitate registration process of adopted, orphan, abandoned, surrogate child and child of single parent or unwed mother".

Monsoon fun

Water transport: Schoolchildren wading through a waterlogged street in Visakhapatnam on Wednesday, after heavy rain under the influence of the southwest monsoon over Andhra Pradesh. K.R. DEEPAK

We will cross LoC if needed, says Rajnath

The Hindu Bureau
KARGIL/NEW DELHI

India will cross the Line of Control (LoC) if the need arises, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh said on Wednesday, speaking on the 24th anniversary of the Kargil conflict.

"Prime Minister Narendra Modi-led government has given a free hand to armed forces to launch operations across the border, if need arises," he added.

"Even after winning the [Kargil] war on July 26, 1999, if our forces did not cross the LoC, it is only because we are peace-loving; we believe in Indian values and we have a commitment to international law. At that time, if we did not cross the LoC, it does not mean that we could not cross it. We could cross the LoC, and will cross the LoC in future if there is a need, I assure the countrymen," he said, after paying homage at the Kargil War Memorial at Dras in the Kargil district of Ladakh.

Rajnath Singh with the family member of a Kargil war hero in Ladakh on Wednesday. PTI

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

LS passes Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Amidst pandemonium, the Lok Sabha passed the Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill on Wednesday, without any changes from the first version introduced on March 29. The contentious Bill was introduced to amend the Forest Conservation Act, 1980.

The 1980 legislation has empowered the Centre for the past four decades, to ensure that any forest land diverted for 'non-forestry' purposes is duly compensated. It extends its remit to land even beyond what is officially classified as 'forest' in State and Central government records.

The amendments made by the Bill and now passed by the Lok Sabha encourage the practice of cultivating plantations on non-forest land, which can increase tree cover over time, act as a carbon sink and aid India's ambitions of having 'net zero' carbon emissions by 2070.

They also seek to remove restrictions imposed by the original Act in creating infrastructure that would aid national security and create livelihood opportunities for those living on the periphery of forests.

1,300 appeals

Objections were raised on various aspects of the Bill when it was first introduced, prompting a Joint Parliamentary Committee (JPC) to investigate it threadbare. Nearly 1,300 representations from a multitude of groups – including tribal rights groups and independent think-tanks – were sent to the JPC, objecting to clauses of the Bill. However, these objections were deliberated upon but ultimately dismissed by the JPC.

Fears remain: Tribal people staging a demonstration against the Forest Conservation (Amendment) Bill in Bhubaneswar recently. ANI

There were objections that the amendments "diluted" the Supreme Court's 1996 judgement in the *Godavarman case* that extended protection to wide tracts of forests, even if they were not recorded as forests. There were objections to the Act's new name – Van (Sanrakshan Evam Samvardhan) Adhiniyam, translated as Forest (Conservation and Augmentation) Act, instead of the existing Forest (Conservation) Act – saying it was "non-inclusive" and left out many among the "(non-Hindi speaking) population in south India and in the northeast". There were also fears that large parcels of forest land near the borders would no longer be protected.

"We have made provisions in the Bill that would enable our soldiers stationed in sub-zero temperatures at Ladakh to access better roads and infrastructure," Environment Minister Bhupender Yadav said in reply to questions raised in Parliament.

Centre moves Bill to nominate 2 Kashmiri migrants to Assembly

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Minister of State for Home Nityanand Rai on Wednesday tabled a Bill in the Lok Sabha to nominate two members from the 'Kashmiri Migrants' community, who "migrated" when militancy was at its peak in the 1989-90, as members of the Legislative Assembly of the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir. One of the members will be a woman.

It also proposes to nominate one member from 'Pakistan-occupied Kashmir' who was displaced in the 1947-48, 1965 and 1971 wars with Pakistan. The

It also proposes to nominate one member displaced from PoK

Bill aims "to preserve their political rights" and "overall social and economic development."

The special status of Jammu and Kashmir under Article 370 was struck down by Parliament in August 2019 and the former State was bifurcated into two Union Territories – Jammu and Kashmir and Ladakh, the latter without an Assembly.

Jammu and Kashmir has been under Central rule since 2018 and the Assembly election is yet to take place.

The statement of objects and reasons of the Jammu and Kashmir Reorganisation (Amendment) Bill, 2023 states that "at the time of militancy in the erstwhile State of J&K in the late 1980s, particularly in the Kashmir [division] in 1989-90, a large number of people migrated from their ancestral places of residence in the Kashmir province, particularly the Kashmiri Hindus and Pandits, along with a few families belonging to the Sikh and Muslim communities."

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 8

Kinetic energy, passion and emotion are fine, but rules must be respected too

Harmanpreet failed to set the right example by throwing tantrums during the final ODI in Bangladesh recently, making strong remarks against the umpires during the presentation function and telling her counterpart in sarcasm to get the officials also for the combined team photo session as they seemed part of the squad

K.C. Vijaya Kumar

Women's cricket in India has come a long way. From the days of pioneers like Diana Edulji and Shantha Rangaswamy struggling with meagre resources, followed by the era of Mithali Raj and Jhulan Goswami, who with their staggering numbers, carved a niche for themselves, Indian women's cricket acquired a distinct identity.

Upon this ballast of hard work and sweat, the present crop has added layers of efficiency, topped it with effervescence and kept the fans glued to their seats. Harmanpreet Kaur or a Jemimah Rodrigues occupy this spectrum where the athlete becomes a larger-than-life personality. The women have shown that they are never inferior to their much-feted male counterparts. The BCCI recognised this level playing field and established parity in terms of match fees even if central contracts tend to offer more money to the male stars.

In this current scenario featuring relatively more matches and soaring recognition, Harmanpreet, the Indian captain, added a bitter touch with her recent outburst during the third ODI against Bangladesh. Adjudged as dismissed by Nahida Akter, a petulant Harmanpreet swung her bat and smashed the stumps. The match eventually ended in a tie and the three-game series concluded in a 1-1 stalemate. But even if the overall result stayed on an even keel, all that lingered was the foul mood which an angry batter needlessly gifted to a contest that walked the razor's edge.

As a skipper, Harmanpreet had to set the right example but she failed. After her brain-fade moment, she made strong remarks against the umpires during the post-match presentation function and added dollops of sarcasm at the combined team photograph event. Stewing in her rage, she told Bangladesh captain Nigar Sultana to get the umpires along as they too seemed part of the squad. It was a low blow and after a few days of contemplation, the ICC suspended the Indian captain for two matches besides imposing a hefty fine. It would mean that Harmanpreet would miss India's first two matches at the forthcoming Asian Games in China.

High-performance athletes with a certain presence are passionate about their craft and at times succumb to the messiah-syndrome wherein in their mind they cannot do anything wrong. Reflexively, it causes heart-burn as sport, with its whimsical air, tends to alter scripts. Harmanpreet joined a vast legion of superstars who forget that sport isn't just about kinetic energy and unrelenting focus, but it is also about grace and kindness while striving for excellence. With muscular nationalism or feverish club loyalties affecting fans and their judgements, sportspersons are put on a pedestal. Smugness creeps in and it affects judgement.

Serena Williams' tantrums at the chair umpire Carlos Ramos during the 2018 US Open final against Naomi Osaka, will always remain that tiny dark cloud despite all her incandescent halo. Switching to cricket, Harmanpreet has many predecessors wallowing in the ripple of anger. M.S. Dhoni, Captain Cool for most, once stormed towards the pitch from the dugout and argued with the umpires. In the hyped universe of the Indian Premier League, the Chennai Super Kings leader's misdemeanour was looked upon with a sense of indulgence!

Virat Kohli's angry statements in close proximity to the stump microphone during India's tour of South Africa last year was in poor taste too. Even if he was sending a message across to the third umpire and official broadcaster, this method was uncalled for. Leaders ought to douse the flames and not add fuel to it. At the highest level of sport, the pressure is gargantuan and the athlete is up for intense scrutiny. Anger can seep through but it is essential that emotions are reigned in.

Harmanpreet's latest skirmish isn't the last we would see in terms of poor behaviour from an athlete on a sporting turf, but it makes for ugly viewing

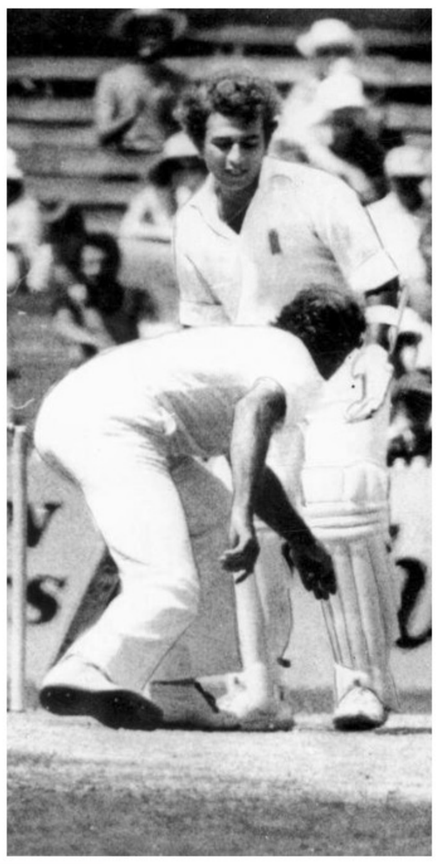
The biggest names in cricket have all had their low moments. Michael Holding once kicked the stumps in New Zealand, Sunil Gavaskar nearly dragged his opening partner Chetan Chauhan along with him after being adjudged lbw to Dennis Lillee in Australia, an upset Vivian Richards berated an umpire to award a catch during the Windies tour of India in 1987, and this list can go on and on. At its sweaty zenith, sport tends to blend adrenaline with anger, but it is for the athlete to recognise this flaw.

Harmanpreet's latest skirmish isn't the last we would see in terms of poor behaviour from an athlete on a sporting turf, but it makes for ugly viewing. Impressionable minds could tend to play the copy-cat, presuming that letting all feelings hang on the sleeve is the way forward.

It is never ideal, especially in sport with its high viewership and a subconscious ability to impart life lessons. None of us want a sport devoid of emotion but rules need to be followed. It is the same be it a Kohli, a Harmanpreet or the latest rookie itching to make a debut.

THE GIST

- Dhoni stormed towards the pitch from the dugout, arguing with the umpires in an IPL match
- Kohli vented his anger into the mic in a Test match in South Africa
- Gavaskar nearly pulled out his opening partner Chauhan from the middle in a Test against Australia
- A livid Holding kicked the stumps in New Zealand
- Serena spiralled out of control in a US Open final against Osaka



Meltdown: High-performance athletes are passionate about their craft and, at times, succumb to the 'messiah syndrome' wherein they think they can do no wrong. This was demonstrated by (clockwise from top left) Dhoni, Gavaskar, Serena and Holding. SPORTZPICS/BCCI & THE HINDU ARCHIVES

KARNATAKA POWER CORPORATION LIMITED
RAICHUR THERMAL POWER STATION
CIN : U85110KA1970SGC001919

No.: KPCL/2023-24/PS/WORK_ INDENT 355 Date: 22.07.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER
(Two Cover System) (Through e-Procurement portal only)

Tenders are invited through GoK e-Procurement Portal: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** from agencies for the work of **"Supply and installation of MCBs & Din rail sets with necessary fasteners for ESP hopper heaters of units 5 to 8 at RTPS"**. Date of receipt of tenders: **07.08.2023 upto16:30Hrs.** Further details can be had from the office of the **Executive Engineer (LT-2) RTPS, KPCL, Shakthinagar - 584170, Raichur District.** Mobile No: **94495 96536.** e-mail ID: **eelt2rtps@gmail.com.**

ODISHA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Odisha Undertaking)
Regd. Office: Janpath, Bhubaneswar-751022
CIN:U40102OR2004SGC007553

TENDER ALERT

1)E-Tender Call Notice No.CPC-Relays-15/2023-24: Bids invited from reputed manufacturers in two part bidding system for supply of different types of Numerical & Electromechanical Relays at an estimated cost of Rs.2,48,75,542.00.
Complete set of bidding documents are available at **www.tenderwizard.com/OPTCL** & OPTCL's official website: **http://www.optcl.co.in.**

HIPR-24/2023-24
CAD-1454 OIPR-04011/11/0068/2324

/@/optcl.odisha /optcl_odisha

BANGALORE METROPOLITAN TRANSPORT CORPORATION
Civil Engineering Department K.H. Road, Shantinagar, Bengaluru-560 027.
No.BMTC/CO/CE/EE/479-483/2023-24 Dated:24.07.2023

E –PROCUREMENT SHORT-TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION No.1-5/2023-24

Tender is invited for the works of **(1) Arranging 11 KV HT power supply to an extent of 600 KVA for EV charging at BMTC Bus Station at Shivajinagar, Bengaluru".** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 28.14 Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 56,280/- (2) Arranging 11 KV HT power supply to an extent of 1400 KVA for EV charging at BMTC Bus Depot-28, Hebbala, Bengaluru".** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 10.96Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 27,480/- (3) Repairs to water supply and Sanitary arrangements, replacement of damaged false ceiling and providing vitrified flooring, plastering and other repair works at Transport Commissioner Office, 1st floor "A" Block at Shanthinagar TTMC, Bengaluru.** Amount put to tender: **Rs. 3.62 Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 9,050/- (4) Annual maintenance works at Domlur TTMC Bengaluru for the period 2023-24 (Call-3)** Amount put to tender:**Rs. 20.21 Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 50,000/-** and **(5) Annual maintenance works at Yeshawanthapura TTMC Bengaluru for the period 2023-24 (Call-3)**.Amount put to tender: **Rs. 23.47 Lakhs** and EMD: **Rs. 50,000/-** Participating bidders will have to upload all informations, documents and rates etc in e-procurement website only. **i.e. https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** No documents will be accepted in person physically. **(1)** Last date for receipt of tenders: **07.08.2023** Date of opening of tender: **09.08.2023. (2)** Any other information required can be obtained from the office of the Executive Engineer during working hours or through website: **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- EXECUTIVE ENGINEER, BMTC

idco Your power to grow — ODISHA NEW OPPORTUNITIES
ISO 9001 & 14001 Corporation

OFFICE OF THE CHIEF GENERAL MANAGER (P&C), IDCO, IDCO TOWER, BHUBANESWAR
Tender Call Notice No File No.: IDCO/HO-P&C/O-2654/04/2023 /V-1 23010, Dated : 25.07.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDER THROUGH e-PROCUREMENT

Name of the Work : SITC of 33 kV UG cable laying to RBI in Infovalley, Khordha.
Estimated Cost put to tender : Rs.2,70,32,463.00
Period of Completion : 02 (Two) Calendar Months.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender On-Line for Bidding	
		From	To
1	2	3	4
Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, IDCO Tower, Bhubaneswar.	Bid Identification No.:- P&C/EST/E-85/2023-24	17.00 Hours of dt. 31.07.2023.	17.00 Hours of dt. 21.08.2023.

Further details can be seen from the e-Procurement Portal **www.Tendersodisha.gov.in** and Corrigendum if any will be published in newspapers and can only be seen in the **e-Procurement portal** as well as **IDCO website**.

CAD-1453 **Sd/- Chief General Manager (P&C), IDCO, Bhubaneswar** OIPR-14003/11/0144/2324

KALABURAGI MAHANAGARA PALIKE, KALABURAGI.
No: KMP/EE/DB/15th Finance/01/2023-24 Date: 25-07-2023

:: E-PROCUREMENT TENDER ::

1) Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi invites 02 tenders as per KTPP act, 1999 and Rules, 2000 through e-procurement Portal in KW-3 Tender bid documents under 2022-23 Corporation Fund & 2022-23 15th Finance Fund for the year 2023-24 scheme. The bid documents can be downloaded from e-portal website and any information related to these tenders will be updated on **www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** 2) Estimate Sanction cost: lowest amount **Rs. 65.00 lakhs** & Highest amount **Rs.100.00 lakhs.,** 3) EMD Value: Lowest Rs. 130000.00 & Highest Rs. 200000.00, 4) Pre Bid Meeting date: **02-08-2023 upto 11-00 am**. 4) Last date of Bid Submission: **03-08-2023 upto 4-30 pm.**, 5) Technical Bid Opening date: **04-08-2023 upto 4-35 pm.,** 6) Financial Bid Opening date: 07-08-2023 after 11:30 am. 7) Office Address : Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.8) For more details visit Office Website: **http://www.kalaburagicity.mrc.gov.in/**

DIPR/Kalaburagi/137/MC&A/2023-24 **Sd/- Executive Engineer, Kalaburagi Mahanagara Palike, Kalaburagi.**

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, RI-Traffic Engineering Cell,
Room No.09, Ground Floor, Annex-3 Building, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560 002.

No: EE/TEC/TEND/02/2023-24 Date: 26.07.2023

NOTIFICATION

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike invites application for the Post of Disaster Management consultant from Professional staff who have thorough knowledge in Disaster Management and Disaster Management Planning Act 2005.

Details of the posts with consolidated pay

Sl. No.	Name of the post	Educational Qualification	No.of Post	Consolidated pay (in Rs.)
1	Disaster Management Consultant, Grade-1 for Head Office.	PG Degree in Disaster Management / Science/Social Science/Urban Planning/ Environmental Science/Engineering from UGC Recognized University with more than 05 years experience in Disaster Management.	2	70,000/- per month
2	Disaster Management Consultant, Grade-2 for Zonal Office.	PG Degree in Diploma Management / Science/Social Science/Urban Planning/ Environmental Science/Engineering from UGC Recognized University with at least 03-05 years experience in Disaster Management.	8	60,000/- per month

Candidates not exceeding 55 years of age with above qualification shall submit application through **ONLINE ONLY** to email address: **eeritec2023@gmail.com**. No application shall be received manually or through posts. The applicant shall submit all the necessary documents ONLINE duly attested. The originals shall be presented on the date of Interview (As applicable).The selection of candidates shall be based on merits of the documents produced and Interview. The Chief Commissioner, BBMP, has the right to Increase or reduce the number of posts. All the posts are purely on temporary basis and for a period of **11 months only.**

Last date for submitting applications online: 11.08.2023 before 4:00 p.m.

Date & Place of Interview : Will be intimated to shortlisted candidates.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Traffic Engineering Cell Division, RI-BBMP

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 ▪ 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 ▪ 2417580 ▪ Hubballi: 0836-2338600 ▪ 2335700

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

ALS IAS 2024
Face-to-Face Classroom & Live Online
GENERAL STUDIES
BATCH BEGINS EVERY MONTH
Optional subjects offered
Geography, Sociology, History, Public Admn, Pol Science & Anthropology
ALS EDUNATION
9999343999, 9891601133

ANTHRO MEANS VAID SIR

Why Vaids?
Full Support until Success, *Including Answer Writing, Test Series & even free Repeat Batches*
180+ Answers Prepared & Evaluated
Full Fee Rewarded Back *for students becoming IAS/IPS/IFS as per general category cutoff*
Free Access to Library
All Time Approachable Faculty

Online(Live) & Offline Batch
Starting Aug 22
Admissions Aug 1
For Details visit www.vaidsics.com
Or Youtube.com/@VaidsICSDelhi
VAID'S ICS, DELHI
Ph: 9999946748

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, ASHA Iengar/ Asha Thiru, R/a No.415, 2nd A cross, 3rd Stage, 3rd Block, Basaveshwaranagar, Bangalore-560079 have changed my name to Asha Srinivasan vide affidavit dt: 26.07.2023 sworn before Notary Smt.A.Manjula, B'luru.

I, A.Ashok Kumar, r/at No.24, Anjana Murthy Nilaya, 4th Cross, Lottegollahalli Layout, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore 560094 have changed my minor son's name from Niranjan Kumar.A to Nihansh Niranjan.A vide affidavit dtd 26.05.23 sworn before Notary Prakasha C, Bluru

I, SHANKARAIAH Venkateshwaraiah, S/o Late C Venkatesulu, R/a No.814, A J Layout, Ashwath Nagar, Thanisandra, Dr.Shivarama Karanth Nagar Post, Bangalore North, Bangalore-560077 have changed my name to Shankaraiah Venkateshulu Samuel vide affidavit dt: 25.07.2023 sworn before Notary S.I.Balaguru, B'lore

I, SHREEKANTH Betarayappa, S/o Betarayappa N.N, R/at T10-1804, Sattva Divinity, Mysore Road, Nayandahalli, Bangalore-560026 declare that the names Arjun S and Arjun Shreekanth belongs to my minor son and refers to one and the same person vide Affidavit dated 24/07/2023 before Notary V.Rangaraju, Bangalore.

I, ANNAPURNA Singh C.P. W/o Mr. Surendra Singh residing at Door No.101, 12th Cross Road, Ramesh Nagara, Bangalore East, Bangalore-560037, have changed my name from Annapurna Singh C.P. to Nandini Singh, after my marriage with Surendra Singh, on 02-12-1999, before Shivakumara, Advocate and Notary, Mysore. Vide affidavit dated 04-03-2014.

REAL ESTATE

MG ROAD 4000 sqft residential plot for sale. Contact 9663766492. Brokers excuse

16 ACRES KIADB Industrial Land just off Bangalore – Kanakapura Road in a good location with ready facilities is for Urgent Sale. Call: Sudhakar – 9110863283

TO BOOK
THANKSGIVING
Advertisements
in
THE HINDU
Contact:
080 - 22071800 / 22864240
080 - 22071826 / 22071827
Rate per advertisement
(3.5 X 5 cms)
Rs. 750/-

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, RAGHUNATH Reddy, S/o P.Koteswara Reddy, r/at No.219, Beerahalli Village, Siruguppa Taluk, Ballari 583114 have changed my name as P.Raghunath Reddy vide affidavit dtd 26.07.2023 sworn before Notary K.C.Chowde Gowda, Bluru.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, S Selva, r/at # 5, Jojappa Layout, Veerannapalya Bangalore North, Bengaluru 560045 have changed my minor daughter's name from Alumelu to Harini S vide affidavit dtd 24.07.23 sworn before Notary Vijayalakshmi K, Bluru

IN THE HIGH COURT OF KARNATAKA AT BENGALURU
NOTICE TO THE RESPONDENT NO. 1, 2, 5,6,7 & 9 VIDE ORDER DATED: 17-07-2023
R.F.A. No.496/2017

Sri. Syed Naveed Ahmed @ Annu ... APPELLANT
(By Sriyuths: Shamanth Naik & Aloke Madappa advs. for appellant **-V/s-**
Smt. Naseema & Others ... RESPONDENTS

To, **RESPONDENTS: 1. Smt. Naseema,** W/o Late S.A. Shukoor, No.10/1, II Floor, Khazi Street, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. **2. Sri. S. A. Sultan,** S/o Late S.A. Shukoor, R/at No. 10/13, Reddy Layout, Ummar Bagh, J.P.Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560078. **5. Sri. S.A. Mastan,** S/o Late S.A. Shukoor, R/at No.8/6, Hamza Sahib Lane, Behind 5th & 6th Cross, L.B.F. Road, Doddamavalli, Bengaluru-560004. **6. Sri. S.A. Sulaiman,** S/o Late S.A. Shukoor, No. 10/1, II Floor, Khazi Street, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. **7. Ms. Tasneem Taj,** D/o Late S.A. Shukoor, No. 10/1, II Floor, Khazi Street, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004. **9. Sri. S.A. Subhan,** S/o S.A. Shukoor, No. 10/1, II Floor, Khazi Street, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560004.

Appeal from the Judgment & Decree dated: 15-12-2016 passed in OS.No.5707/2012 on the file of the III Addl. City Civil & Sessions Judge, Bengaluru.

Notice is hereby given to you to appear in this court either in person or through Counsel duly instructed or through some one authorized by law, to act for you in the above appeal on **07-09-2023** in case you intend to contest the appeal. If you fail to appear, the same will be dealt with, heard and decided in your absence.

Issued under my hand and the seal of the court on 21-07-2023.

By order of the court, Assistant Registrar, High Court of Karnataka, Bangalore.

IN THE COURT OF THE XXVIII ADDITIONAL CITY CIVIL AND SESSIONS JUDGE MAYO HALL, BENGALURU (CCH-29)
O.S. No. 26353 of 2017

BETWEEN: SHRI. HARINDRANATH K. S/o of Late H.P. Krishna Reddy, aged about 63 years, R/at 2AC-712, HRBR Layout 1st Block, Kalyan Nagar, Bengaluru-560043 ... **PLAINTIFF**

AND: 3. SMT. KOKILA K.N, Daughter of Late K.N. Mohan Reddy, Wife of Mr. Shyam Prakash, aged about 33 years, **4. MRS. HARINI K.N.** Daughter of Late K.N. Mohan Reddy, aged about 29 years,

Both Defendant Nos. 3 and 4 Residing at: No. 211, 'Prabha Nilaya', 4th Cross, Vijaya Bank Colony, Basavanapura, Krishnarajapuram, Bengaluru-560036. Site No. 5. Behind D.S. Max Splendor Apartments, Kereguddadahalli, Chikkabanavara-560090... **DEFENDANTS**

SERVICE OF NOTICE BY PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20(1A) OF THE CODE OF CIVIL PROCEDURE, 1908

DEFENDANT Nos. 3 and 4: SMT. KOKILA K.N. AND MRS. HARINI K.N.

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff has filed the above suit for suit for the declaratory and injunctive reliefs against the Defendants. The Hon'ble Court has issued. emergent notice of suit through paper publication. You are hereby summoned to appear before this Hon'ble Court on **29-08-2023** at 11:00 A.M., in person or through a pleader, failing which the suit will be disposed off ex-parte.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 26-07-2023.

By order of the court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayo hall Unit, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiff:
SREEVATSA ASSOCIATES
No.50, 2nd Stage, Indiranagar, Bangalore.

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number 1800 102 1878
Or write to us at customercare@thehindu.co.in
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU businessline. FRONTLINE SPORTSTAR Young World THE HINDU

KARNATAKA ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
"Samparka Soudha" No.8, Dr. Rajkumar Road, Rajajinagar, 1st Block, Bengaluru-560010
Telefax : 080-22024000 email : cekrdcl@gmail.com

Tender Notification No. KRDCL/IFB/2023-24/12 Date : 26.07.2023

INVITATION FOR TENDER

Karnataka Road Development Corporation Limited (KRDCL) proposes to invite bid on item rate basis for the tender work for Re-surfacing of State Highway from Hoskote-Chintamani in selected reaches. Interested bidders can participate through kpp portal and documents can be downloaded from website: **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** The last date of receipt of tender is on **05.08.2023 upto 17.30 hours** & Technical bids will be opened on **07.08.2023 at 11.30 hours.**

Note: Please note henceforth, any changes in the schedule will not be published through News Papers and further changes if any, will be updated only on **http//kppp.karnataka.gov.in and KRDCL Website http://www.krdcl.in**

DIPR/CP/Sreshta/683/2023-24 **Sd/- Chief Engineer KRDCL, Bengaluru**

Government of Karnataka
Office of the Executive Engineer, PWD Division, Mandya

No. 01/2023-2024 Dated: 24-07-2023

TENDER NOTIFICATION FOR Construction to Buildings works in Mandya District

Tender in One/Two cover system is invited from qualified Eligible contractors for the works pertaining to **Mandya Division** through e-procurement portal as per Standard bid document KW-1, 2 & 3. The eligible contractors can participate in this tender through e-procurement portal **http://www.eproc.karnataka.gov.in.** Documents may be downloaded from 26-07-2023. Last date for Queries 03-08-2023 upto 4.00 pm, Last date for submission of tender 04-08-2023 upto 4.30 pm, Date of opening Technical bid 05-08-2023 at 5.00 pm onwards, Financial bid upto Rs. 50.00 Lakhs will be opened on 05-08-2023 at 5.00 pm onwards or next Office working days. Financial bid Above Rs. 50.00 Lakhs will be opened on 07-08-2023 at 11.00 am onwards or next Office working day. Tender processing Fees as per E-Procurement & Duration including Monsoon 4/6 months, Number of works: 17, Estimate Amount Maximum **Rs. 80.00** Lakhs, Minimum Rs. **10.00** Lakhs, EMD as per E-Procurement. For more information contact the above office during Office Hours.

Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/ contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only in e-procurement portal.

Sd/- EE., PWD Division, Mandya

ನಗರಸಭಾ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಉಡುಪಿ
ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ:ಉನಸ:ಬಿ1:ಒಆರ್:03:2023–24 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 25.07.2023

ಟೆಂಡರು ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

2022–23ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ ನಗರಸಭಾ ನಿಧಿಯಡಿ (ಮರು ಟೆಂಡರು) ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯನ್ನು ಕೈಗೊಳ್ಳಲು ಅರ್ಹ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ **Standard Bid Document K.W-3** ರ ನಿಯಮ ನಿಬಂಧನೆಗೊಳಪಟ್ಟು (ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ಆಪ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿರುವಂತೆ) e-procurement ಮೂಲಕ ಟೆಂಡರನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಕಚೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದವರಿಂದ ಮತ್ತು ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **www.udupicity.mrc.gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

(1) ತುಂಬಿದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸುವ ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 08.08.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 5.00 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** (2) ಸ್ವೀಕರಿಸಲಾದ ಟೆಂಡರುಗಳನ್ನು ತೆರೆಯುವ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 09.08.2023 ಸಂಜೆ 5.01 ಗಂಟೆಗೆ** (3) ಅರ್ಥಿಕ ಬಿಡ್ಡು ತೆರೆಯುವ ದಿನಾಂಕ ಅರ್ಹ ಬಿಡ್ಡುದಾರರಿಗೆ ಪ್ರತ್ಯೇಕ ತಿಳಿಸಲಾಗುವುದು.

ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ವಿವರ: ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭಾ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ 35 ವಾರ್ಡ್‌ಗಳ ದಾರಿದೀಪಗಳ ವಾರ್ಷಿಕ ನಿರ್ವಹಣೆ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ. DMA/2023-24/EL/WORK_INDENT2035, ಅಂದಾಜು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂ. 99,00,000.00**, ಇ.ಎಂ.ಡಿ **ರೂ. 1,48,500.00**, ಟ್ರಾನ್ಸಾಕ್ಷನ್ ಫೀ: **ಇ–ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ನಂತೆ**, ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಪೂರ್ತಿಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಅವಧಿ: **1 ವರ್ಷ**

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಿಂದ ಟೆಂಡರು ದಾಖಲಾತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಡೌನ್‌ಲೋಡ್ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ ಹಾಗೂ ಇದಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಳನ್ನು ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಬಂಧಪಟ್ಟವರಿಂದ ಪಡೆದುಕೊಳ್ಳಬಹುದು.

ವಾಸಾಇ/ಸನಉ/ಕೆಎಸ್‌ಎಂಸಿಎ/138/23–24 ದಿ: 26.07.2023

ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ಉಡುಪಿ ನಗರಸಭೆ

FORM A
PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

(Under Regulation 6 of the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Board of India (Insolvency Resolution Process for Corporate Persons) Regulations, 2016)

FOR THE ATTENTION OF THE CREDITORS OF TARUN REALTORS PRIVATE LIMITED

	RELEVANT PARTICULARS	
1	Name of corporate debtor	Tarun Realtors Private Limited
2	Date of incorporation of corporate debtor	06/12/2004
3	Authority under which corporate debtor is incorporated / registered	RoC-Bangalore
4	Corporate Identity No. / Limited Liability Identification No. of corporate debtor	U07010KA2004PTC035166
5	Address of the registered office and principal office (if any) of corporate debtor	No 41, Vittal Malya Road, Bangalore, Karnataka – 560 001
6	Insolvency commencement date in respect of corporate debtor	20/07/2023 (Order copy received on 25/07/2023)
7	Estimated date of closure of insolvency resolution process	16/01/2024
8	Name and registration number of the insolvency professional acting as interim resolution professional	Name: Venkata Subbarao Kalva IBBI Regn. No.: IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00179/2017-2018/10655
9	Address and e-mail of the interim resolution professional, as registered with the Board	Address: 41/1, 2nd floor, 11th cross, 8th main, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 011 E-mail: subbaraocs@gmail.com
10	Address and e-mail to be used for correspondence with the interim resolution professional	Address: 41/1, 2nd floor, 11th cross, 8th main, Jayanagar 2nd Block, Bangalore, Karnataka- 560 011 E-Mail:tarunrealtors.ip@gmail.com
11	Last date for submission of claims	08/08/2023
12	Classes of creditors, if any, under clause (b) of sub-section (6A) of section 21, ascertained by the interim resolution professional	N.A.
13	Names of Insolvency Professionals identified to act as Authorised Representative of creditors in a class (Three names for each class)	N.A.
14	(a) Relevant Forms and (b) Details of authorized representatives are available at:	a) Web link: https://ibbi.gov.in/en/home/downloads (b) Not Applicable

Notice is hereby given that the National Company Law Tribunal, Bengaluru Bench has ordered the commencement of a Corporate Insolvency Resolution Process of Tarun Realtors Private Limited on 20.07.2023 (Copy of order received on 25.07.2023).

The creditors of Tarun Realtors Private Limited, are hereby called upon to submit their claims with proof on or before 08.08.2023 to the interim resolution professional at the address mentioned against entry No. 10.

The financial creditors shall submit their claims with proof by electronic means only. All other creditors may submit the claims with proof in person, by post or by electronic means.

A financial creditor belonging to a class, as listed against the entry No. 12, shall indicate its choice of authorised representative from among the three insolvency professionals listed against entry No.13 to act as authoirsed representative of the class (Specify Class) in Form CA. – Not Applicable.

Submission of false or misleading proofs of claim shall attract penalties.

Sd/-
Venkata Subbarao Kalva
Interim Resolution Professional of Tarun Realtors Private Limited
IBBI Registration No.: IBBI/IPA-002/IP-N00179/2017-2018/10655
AFA Certificate No.: AA2/10655/02/111023/202208
Validity of AFA: 11/10/2023

Date: 26th July 2023
Place: Bengaluru

Government of Karnataka
District Health Society
District RCH Office, District Health & FW Office Premises
Ramanagara District-5621853
Mob: 9449843206 E-mail: rchoramanagaram@gmail.com

No: NHM/RCH/DHS/Vehicle/18/2023-24 Date: 24.07.2023

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS

NOTICE INVITING TENDERS The District Health & FW Officer, Ramanagara District, Ramanagara-562159, hereby invites tender in two cover system (Technical and Financial Bids) as per KTPP Act 1999, from the registered and eligible companies to procure a total no. of 15 Four wheeler vehicle services with drivers for various programmes under National Health Mission in Ramanagara District through e-procurement portal of Government of Karnataka (https://eproc.karnataka.gov.in). The prospective service agencies are willing to participate in this tender shall necessarily register themselves with the above mentioned e-procurement portal.

1	Tender Reference	No: DHFWS/2023-24/SE0172
2	Date of commencement of Tender	24.07.2023
3	Last Date and time for submission of tender	09.08.2023 @ 5.00 PM
4	Date & Time of opening of Technical Bid	11.08.2023 @ 11.00 AM
5	Date & Time of opening of Commercial Bid	17.08.2023 @ 2.00 PM
6	Total Estimated Tender Value	Rs. 52,92,000/-
7	Tender EMD Amount	Rs. 1,32,200/-

Interested and eligible bidders may submit their bids through e-procurement process only.

Sd/-District RCH Officer, Ramanagara District

IN THE COURT OF THE 12th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE (CCH-27), AT BENGALURU
O. S. No. 5604/2022

BETWEEN: Sri Gopalakrishnaswamy Nagaraja, aged about 75 years, S/o C.C. Gopalakrishnaswamy, R/at No.222, Block-II, # 19/8, Sriniketh Apartments', M.S.R.E.C. Road, Mathikere, Bengaluru-560054. Represented by his PA Holder Sri G. Shankaranarayana... **PLAINTIFF**

AND: Sri Lakshminarayana and Others ... **DEFENDANTS**

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT NOS. 1 to 6

1) Sri Lakshminarayana, aged about 62 years, S/o Late Muniyappa & Smt. Gangamma, **2) Sri Ramanjini,** aged about 60 years, S/o Late Muniyappa & Smt.Gangamma, **3) Smt.Narayanamma,** aged about 72 years, D/o Late Muniyappa & Smt. Gangamma, **4) Smt.Doddakka,** aged about 68 years, D/o Late Muniyappa & Smt.Gangamma, **5) Smt.Anjinamma,** aged about 65 years, D/o Late Muniyappa & Smt.Gangamma, **6) Smt. Padma,** aged about 57 years, D/o Late Muniyappa & Smt. Gangamma, All are Residing at 'Plama Heights', No.801, 8th Floor, E-Block, Hennur Main Road, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560 043.

NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff has instituted a case against the Defendants for Decree of Mandatory Injunction directing the Defendants to execute Rectification Deed rectifying the boundaries of Schedule - A property as shown in Schedule - B hereunder and grant such other further reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a Pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above suit or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions on **01-09-2023** at 11:00 A.M. to answer the claim and you are directed to produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit / case will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE - A
(As per Sale Deed dated 03-09-1992)

All that piece and parcel of the Site bearing No.9, formed in converted Survey No. 80/4-A and 80/5 of Hennur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nagavara Village Panchayath, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring East to West 35 feet, North to South 45 feet and bounded on the: **East by:** 40 Feet Road, **West by:** Site No. 8, **North by:** 25 feet Road and, **South by:** Private property.

SCHEDULE - B
(As per present condition / as it exists)

All that piece and parcel of the Site bearing No.9, formed in converted Survey No. 80/4-A and 80/5 of Hennur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nagavara Village Panchayath, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring East to West 35 feet, North to South 45 feet and bounded on the: **East by:** Site No. 6, **West by:** Site No. 8, **North by:** 25 feet Road and, **South by:** Private property.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 20-07-2023.

By order of the court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiff:
B.C. SEETHARAMA RAO, ANUP SEETHARAMA RAO, & VISHNU VINAYAK .C.R, Advocates
No.522, Ranka park, No.6, lalbagh Road, Near Richmond Circle, Bangalore-560027.

IN THE COURT OF THE 12th ADDL. CITY CIVIL JUDGE (CCH-27), AT BENGALURU
O. S. No. 5108/2022

BETWEEN: Smt.G Gowramma, aged about 65 years, W/o Sri. M.S. Sundar Raj, No.143, 'Sharada Krupa, 3rd Main, 26th Cross, Jayanagar 6th Block, Yediyur, Bengaluru- 560070. Represented by his PA Holder Sri M.S. Sundar Raj.. **PLAINTIFF**

AND: Sri. Lakshminarayana & Others ... **DEFENDANTS**

NOTICE TO THE DEFENDANT NOS. 2 to 6

2. Sri Ramanjini, aged about 60 years, S/o Late Muniyappa & Smt. Gangamma, **3)Smt.Narayanamma,** aged about 72 years, D/o Late Muniyappa & Smt. Gangamma, **4. Smt.Doddakka,** aged about 68 years, D/o Late Muniyappa & Smt. Gangamma, **5. Smt. Anjinamma,** aged about 65 years, D/o Late Muniyappa & Smt. Gangamma, **6. Smt.Padma,** aged about 57 years, D/o Late Muniyappa & Smt. Gangamma, All are Residing at 'Plama Heights', No.801, 8th Floor, E-Block, Hennur Main Road, Kalyan Nagar Post, Bengaluru - 560 043.

NOTICE

WHEREAS, the Plaintiff has Instituted a case against the Defendants for Decree of Mandatory Injunction directing the Defendants to execute Rectification Deed rectifying the boundaries of Schedule A property as shown in Schedule B hereunder and grant such other further reliefs. You are hereby summoned to appear in this court in person or by a Pleader duly instructed and able to answer all material questions relating to the above suit or who shall be accompanied by some person able to answer all such questions on **01-09-2023** at 11:00 A.M to answer the claim and you are directed to produce on that day all the documents upon which you intend to rely in support of your defence.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance on the day before mentioned, the suit / case will be heard and determined in your absence.

SCHEDULE - A
(As per Sale Deed dated 03-09-1992)

All that piece and parcel of the Site bearing No.10, formed in converted Survey No. 80/4-A and 80/5 of Hennur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nagavara Village Panchayath, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring East to West 50 feet, North to South 45 feet and bounded on the: **East by:** Private property, **West by:** 40 feet Road, **North by:** Site No.6 and, **South by:** Private Property.

SCHEDULE - B
(As per present condition / as it exists)

All that piece and parcel of the Site bearing No.10, formed in converted Survey No. 80/4-A and 80/5 of Hennur Village, Kasaba Hobli, Nagavara Village Panchayath, Bengaluru North Taluk, measuring East to West 50 feet, North to South 45 feet and bounded on the: **East by:** Private property, **West by:** Site No. 6, **North by:** 25 feet Road, **South by:** Private property.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court on 20-07-2023.

By order of the court, Assistant Registrar, City Civil Court, Bangalore.

Advocate for Plaintiff:
B.C. SEETHARAMA RAO, ANUP SEETHARAM RAO, & VISHNU VINAYAK .C.R, Advocates
No.522, Ranka park, No.6, lalbagh Road, Near Richmond Circle, Bangalore-560027.

CAUVERY NEERAVARI NIGAMA LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of the Executive Engineer, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur Hassan District.

Short Term Tender Notification No:02/2023-24
Date: 25.07.2023

The Executive Engineer, CNNL.,Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur-573120 Hassan Taluk Hassan Dist., As Per KW-3, invited Item rate Short term tender (Two covers) through K.P.P.Portal only vide No.02/2023-24, Date:25.07.2023 on behalf of the Managing Director, CNNL, Bangalore from the eligible contractors of PWD Class-III and above of any State /Central Government /Public Sector organization. Details-1work, Cost put to tender amount Rs.84.49 lakhs, EMD as Prescribed in K.P.P.Portal, The contractor can have access e-tender documents from 28.07.2023 to 07.08.2023 through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in on payment (Non Refundable) of transaction fees as fixed by K.P.P.Portal (2)Opening of Technical bid (Cover-I) 08.08.2023 at 5.00PM onwards. (if possible) (3)Cover-II (Financial bid) will be opened after approval of Technical bid from the competent authority. For further information etc., contact in the undersigned office during working hours or through website https://kppp.karnataka.gov. (Department).

Sd/- Executive Engineer, CNNL, Hemavathy Dam Division, Gorur.

ವಾಸಾಸಂ೦ಇ/ಹಿಸನಿ/ಹಾಸನ/156/ಕೆಎಸ್ ಎಂಸಿಎ/159/2023–24

J BG-BGE

Cap of beer bottle helps police crack attempt to murder case

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The cap of a beer bottle found at a crime scene helped the police solve an attempt to murder case reported in Chandra Layout on Sunday.

According to the police, Muthuraj, 27, an ambulance driver, along with three of his friends Koushik, Raju, and Arun, went to the bar on Sunday.

After a few drinks, they were talking on the road close to the bar when two men on a bike confronted them and objected to them staring at them.

When Koushik tried to reason with them, the accused allegedly attacked him with a beer bottle and smashed it on his head, said the police. Muthuraj tried to intervene, but he was also attacked in the melee.

The injured who were profusely bleeding were rushed to hospital and they later complained to the Chandra Layout police.

Based on the complaint, the police visited the spot and found the cap of a beer bottle as a piece of evidence. The cap had a batch number which helped the police to trace the wine store from which the accused had bought the beer.

Based on the physical description and the make of the bike, the police recovered the CCTV camera footage from the wine shop and tracked down the accused.

BMRCL conducts first trial run on section between K.R. Pura and Baiyappanahalli

Close to 27,000 passengers are using the Whitefield to K.R. Pura metro line. A major jump in ridership is expected once the K.R. Pura - Baiyappanahalli stretch is opened

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) conducted the much-awaited first trial run between the K.R. Pura and Baiyappanahalli metro stations on Wednesday.

A BMRCL official said the train, which was operated in both directions, ran at a slow speed of 15 kmph, and various parameters and alignments between the coach and the viaducts' walkway were checked.

The trial run of metro train between Baiyappanahalli and K.R. Pura on Wednesday.

Another trial run

"The trial run was carried out after completing the work related to the traction, signalling and other related work. The next procedure is to approach the Commissioner of metro railway safety for an inspection," the official explained while adding that the trial run on the Kengeri-Challaghatta section may commence in another three days.

Manoj Krishnan, a metro passenger, said, "I am happy to know about this development. I hope the entire stretch from Whitefield will become operational soon, so that so that we don't have to depend on metro feeder buses."

On March 25, Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated the 13.71 km metro line between K.R. Pura to Whitefield, which has 12 stations. However, the stretch between Baiyappanahalli and K.R. Pura could not be opened due to pending work.

Due to the missing link, metro passengers, around 8,000 a day, are making use of the feeder service operated by the BMTC between Baiyappanahalli and K.R. Pura.

Close to 27,000 passengers are using the new K.R. Pura to Whitefield metro line. A major jump in patronage is expected once the BMRCL opens the entire 15.5-km metro line.

Kengeri to Challaghatta

Kengeri to Challaghatta on Mysuru Road is also likely to be made operational soon on the Mysuru Road to Challaghatta line. The section from Mysuru Road to Kengeri was opened in August 2021.

The 13.71 km long stretch is part of the extended Purple Line from Baiyappanahalli to Whitefield (15.5 km), built under phase II of Namma Metro. At a project cost of ₹4,249 crore, the opening of the line will benefit five to six lakh people living in the area, those working in IT companies, industries and other commercial establishments.

High Court notice to State, BMRCL on plea for ₹10 crore compensation

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered issue of notice to the State government, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL), and others on a petition filed by a man who lost his 28-year-old wife and 2.5-year-old son when an under-construction metro pier collapsed on them in January this year. He has sought a compensation of ₹10 crore as against ₹20 lakh offered to him.

Justice Krishna S. Dixit passed the order on a petition filed by Lohitkumar V. Sulakhe.

The petitioner's wife Tejaswini and son Vihaan died when the under-construction structure fell on the scooter, on which the petitioner was travelling along with his wife and their twin children near Nagawara on January 10, 2023.

Petitioner lost his 28-year-old wife and 2.5-year-old son when under-construction metro pier collapsed on them

It has been stated in the petition that Tejaswini, who was a software engineer, was getting a monthly salary of around ₹75,000 and the couple had purchased a home by availing themselves of a loan.

A compensation of at least ₹10 crore should be paid as per the formula set by the Supreme Court in case of loss caused due to the death of an earning member when taken into account the age and anticipated future earnings of the petitioner's wife if she lived till her age of superannuation, it has been argued in the petition.

Metro staff booked for negligence over passenger's death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Baiyappanahalli police have booked staff of the Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL) for negligence after 67-year-old Thimme Gowda collapsed on a Namma Metro train and passed out, but allegedly lay unattended at M.G. Road Namma Metro station for over 20 minutes without medical assistance, on July 20. Co-passengers took him in an autorickshaw to a private hospital on Infantry Road where he succumbed 35 minutes later.

Based on a complaint filed by Thimme Gowda's son, Muthuraj T., an inspector with the BDA, the police booked the staff, and summoned them for questioning.

BMRCL denied any lapse on their part, and claimed that the complaint is false and defamatory.

Initial probe by police revealed that there was prima facie negligence on the part of the staff in handling the passenger after he collapsed and passed out in the train.

CCTV footage shows Thimme Gowda lying unattended at M.G. Road station for around 15 minutes even while two guards were in the vicinity.

Though a wheelchair was provided later, police claim that no Namma Metro official helped the patient.

Thimme Gowda is a farmer from Kollegal, in Chamarajanagar district. He was in Bengaluru to visit his son.

A police officer said co-passengers couldn't deboard Thimme Gowda at Indiranagar and Halasuru stations. They looked for emergency contact numbers inside the Namma Metro train, but found none, he added.

Police have summoned the BMRCL's Chief Security Officer for questioning under Section 41 of the CrPC, and are expecting a response in 3 days.

The complainant is not keen to pursue legal action, but wants to ensure that such incidents are not repeated. He wants to create awareness about the lack of medical facilities in the Namma Metro service.

In solidarity

Bangalore University students raise slogans during a protest over violence against women in Manipur, in Bengaluru on Wednesday. K. MURALI KUMAR

Cylinder delivery boy arrested for strangling his wife

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Banaswadi police on Wednesday arrested a 25-year-old LPG cylinder delivery boy for allegedly strangulating his newly-wed wife and making it look like a suicide.

A close analysis of the crime scene hours after the incident led the police to crack the case before the post-mortem report ascertaining the cause of death.

According to the police, the accused Siddappa Basavaraj was an alcoholic and used to best up his wife over trivial rows every day.

He was married to Kenchamma six months ago and the couple lived in a rented house in HBR Layout.

On Tuesday, Siddappa came home drunk and fought with Kenchamma. He later strangled her in an inebriated state when she objected to his behaviour, said the police.

He later realised that that she was dead and decided to cook up a story of suicide. He hung the body and raised alarm prompting his neighbour and house owners to rush to his help and take her to hospital where the doctors declared her as brought dead.

Based on the medico-legal case, the police rushed to the spot and sent the body for post-mortem before visiting the house for crime scene investigation.

A detailed analysis of the crime scene led the police to suspect foul play and take Siddappa into custody for questioning. A detailed questioning led him to confess to the murder, said the police.

Independence Day flower show to be a tribute to Kengal Hanumanthaiya

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

One of Bengaluru's most awaited events, the Independence Day flower show at Lalbagh Botanical Garden, will be inaugurated on August 4 this year. This year, the Horticulture Department has decided to pay a tribute to Kengal Hanumanthaiya, the second Chief Minister of Karnataka.

More than 15 lakh flowers will be used for the show this year.

"Mr. Hanumanthaiya was instrumental in the construction of the Vidhana Soudha and thus there will be a floral replica of the same. Remembering his contribution to the freedom movement, there will also be a replica of the Shivapura Satyagraha Soudha. To mark his stint as the Railway Minister, there will be a 30-feet railway model," said a senior official of the department.

Visitors at the Republic Day Flower Show 2023, based on the 'History of Bengaluru city', at Lalbagh Botanical Garden. With a record footfall of 3.3 lakh visitors, a whopping ₹1.97 crore was collected in revenue. FILE PHOTO

He also said that there will be models depicting the first formation of the Kannada and Culture Department by the former CM, and the nationalisation of the Kolar gold mines, which was another one of his initiatives.

For the Republic Day show, the department had chosen 'Evolution of Bengaluru' as the theme. With a record footfall of 3.3 lakh visitors, a whopping ₹1.97 crore was collected in revenue.

The previous year's Independence Day show, organised as a tribute to the father-son actor-duo Rajkumar and Puneeth Rajkumar, had seen over 8 lakh people in attendance.

Riding high on the numbers, the officials said that they were expecting more people for the upcoming flower show. "We are expecting at least 9-10 lakh people to attend this time," said the senior official.

As many as 15 lakh flowers will be used for replicas as well as display items both inside and outside the glass house. "This will include cut flowers and the potted ones," he added.

The show will go on for 11 days as usual, until August 15. The ticket prices for adults will be ₹70 on weekdays and ₹80 on weekends while it will be ₹30 for children, on all days.

Timings
BENGALURU

THURSDAY, JUL. 27		
RISE	06:04	SET 18:48
RISE	13:32	SET 00:29
FRIDAY, JUL. 28		
RISE	06:04	SET 18:48
RISE	14:30	SET 01:15
SATURDAY, JUL. 29		
RISE	06:04	SET 18:48
RISE	15:33	SET 02:07

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	29	24
Mysuru	27	21
Bengaluru	25	20

Bengaluru Today
24°C The weather will be pleasant but humid. Intermittent spells of moderate rain and thundershower to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
26°C Rise in temperature. A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower to prevail.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

Text & Context
A weekday feature on *The Hindu* epaper (epaper.thehindu.com) carries explainers, special articles and a quiz. In the latest issue (July 27, Thursday), the following explainer is available:

- The changing contours of Delhi
bit.ly/delhieconomy

You can use your smartphone's inbuilt features to access this article. If it's an Android phone, use Google Lens to read and tap the url to access the article. If it's an iPhone, use Live Text on camera to do the same.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our Clients **MR. DAVID VIJAY KUMAR** S/o. Late. Swamy Das and **MRS. SATHYAMMA DAVID VIJAY KUMAR** W/o. Mr. David Vijay Kumar are intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **1)Mrs. VIDYA RAO** W/o. Late.Ram Mohan Rao **2) Ms. NINA KAVITA RAO** D/o. Late.Ram Mohan Rao, any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client/s shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Flat bearing **No.302** in the **First Floor, "AIRAVATAM APARTMENTS"**, Measuring 1454.69 Sq.feet Super Built-up Area, containing Two Bedrooms, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, Terrace, contained in the multistoried building constructed on immovable Property Site bearing Municipal Corporation No.330/7, Situated at: **Domlur Layout, Bangalore 560071**

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our Clients **1) Mrs. VIDYA RAO** W/o. Late.Ram Mohan Rao **2) Ms. NINA KAVITA RAO** D/o. Late.Ram Mohan Rao are the absolute owners of the Schedule Property free from any sort of claim and encumbrance and with peaceful possession thereof, they are intending to sell the same to **MR. DAVID VIJAY KUMAR** S/o. Late. Swamy Das and **MRS. SATHYAMMA DAVID VIJAY KUMAR** W/o. Mr. David Vijay Kumar, any person/s objecting for the proposed sale or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof within **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our client/s shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Flat bearing **No.302** in the **First Floor, "AIRAVATAM APARTMENTS",** Measuring 1454.69 Sq.feet Super Built-up Area, containing Two Bedrooms, including proportionate share in common areas such as passages, lobbies, staircase, Terrace, contained in the multistoried building constructed on immovable Property Site bearing Municipal Corporation No.330/7, Situated at: **Domlur Layout, Bangalore 560071.**

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants
Bangalore-43. M: 9845846428, 9108784843

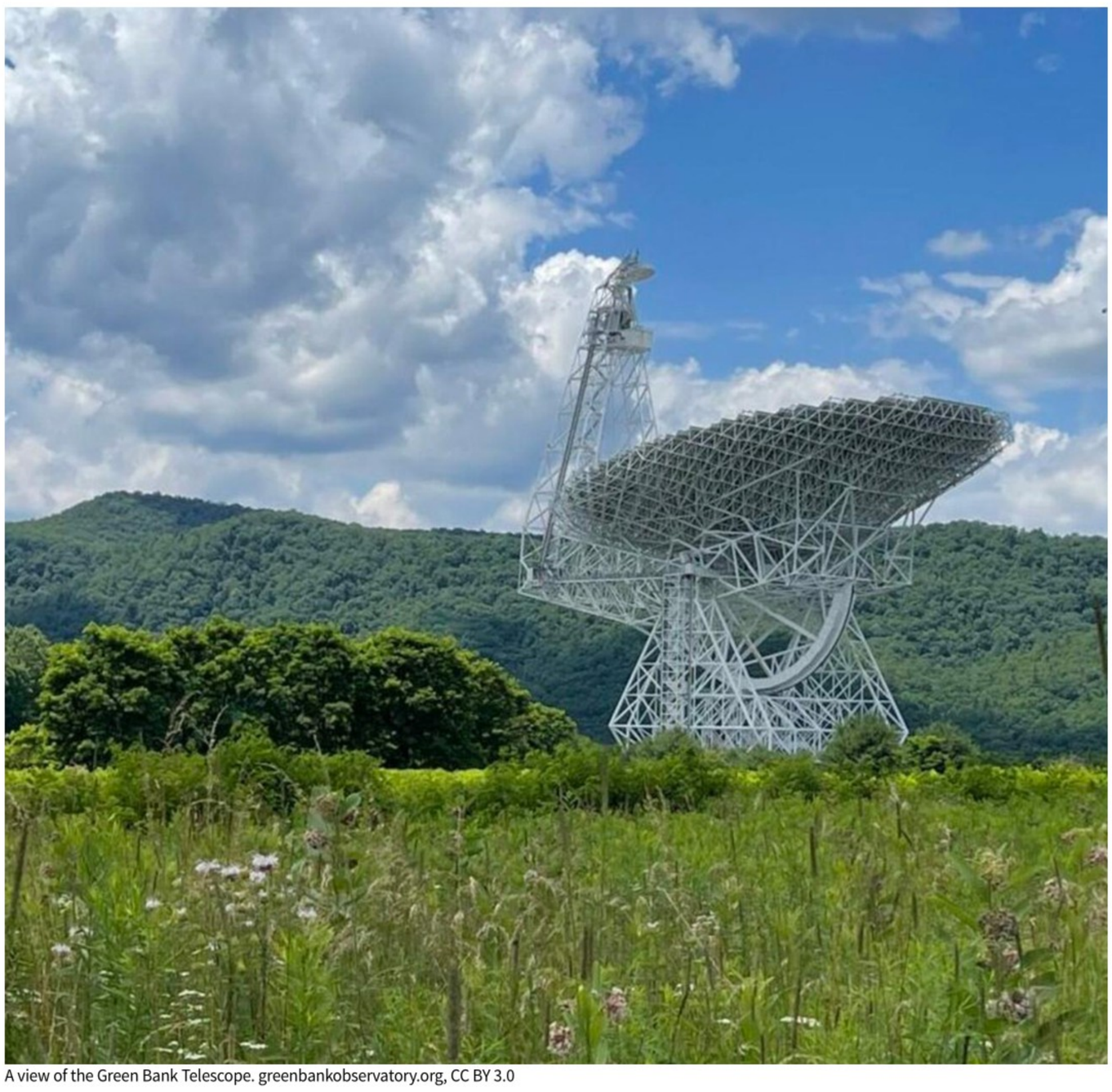
New clue to FRBs, mysterious radio flashes from space

We know almost nothing about the precise origins of fast radio bursts and why they appear in such short, sharp bursts – other than that these celestial electromagnetic impulses probably come from the embers of dying stars. Some are spotted just once and never detected again

Prakash Chandra

Mysterious emissions of radio light from the far reaches of the universe are the next big thing in modern radio astronomy. Fleeting flurries of radio waves, called fast radio bursts (FRBs) reach Earth from faraway galaxies, emitting as much energy in a millisecond as the sun does over weeks.

In spite of being the brightest radio bursts found in nature, however, these will o' the wisps of the cosmos are so transient that astrophysicists have only been able to 'see' them momentarily using large radio telescopes. Ever since the first FRB was picked up by radio astronomers more than 15 years ago, they have identified hundreds, and the list is getting longer by the day.



A view of the Green Bank Telescope. greenbankobservatory.org, CC BY 3.0

What do we know about FRBs?

We know almost nothing about the precise origins of FRBs and why they appear in such short, sharp bursts - other than that these celestial electromagnetic impulses probably come from the embers of dying stars.

Some FRBs are 'one-off' phenomena: spotted just once and never detected again; others are repeaters, flashing Earth intermittently like some ghostly lighthouse in the depths of space.

An international team of astronomers has now published the results of its exhaustive study on a repeating FRB from a distant galaxy that offers new clues about the origins of these mysterious radio flashes. The report was published in the journal *Science* on May 12.

The astronomers tried to figure out what produces an FRB by studying its local environment to determine the sources that could exist in, or create, such environments.

They targeted a repeating FRB, called FRB 20190520B (they are christened by the date of their discovery, in this case: May 20, 2019), using the Green Bank Telescope in the U.S. and the Parkes Observatory in Australia, and recorded hundreds of bursts from it.

What did the astronomers find?

They discovered that the FRB's Faraday rotation measure - an indicator of its magnetic field strength - was highly variable and that it reversed direction twice. This magnetic reversal, they believe, has to do with the FRB source orbiting a binary star system where the companion star is probably a massive star or a black hole.

"We have used magnetic fields as probes to study the FRB's local environment," Reshma Anna-Thomas, lead author of the study, said in an email to *The Hindu*.

"We saw that the magnetic field in our sightline flipped in a few months, which is tiny on astronomical timescales. The value of the magnetic field and electron density was also found to vary around this source, which indicates a very turbulent magnetised plasma environment."

Using these observed features, the researchers modelled the variations as being the result of a wind from a massive binary companion star. The wind of a star is a rapid stream of ejected material. In other words, the magnetic reversal likely happened when the radio signals passed through a turbulent, magnetised screen of plasma in the binary stellar system.

What do the findings mean?

This conclusion ties in with an older discovery of a strikingly similar binary system in the Milky Way galaxy, including the magnetic field reversal. "This FRB, [called] FRB 20190520B, is very similar to other repeating FRBs in energy scales, narrow banded emission, temporal widths etc.," Dr. Anna-Thomas said. "But our study gives one of the most convincing pieces of evidence that this source could be in a binary system."

Thus, she added, it is possible that "all repeating FRBs could be in binaries" but differ in their local conditions, like the orbital period or the orbital inclination. "Constant long-term monitoring of these FRBs is necessary to make a final call on this."

Cosmologists believe that learning more about such changes in the magnetised environment around FRBs could eventually help track down their origins. To do this, astronomers have a whole new generation of radio telescopes at their disposal.

They include the Very Large Array and Deep Synoptic Array-110 in the U.S., China's Five-hundred-meter Aperture Spherical radio Telescope, the Australian Square Kilometre Array Pathfinder, India's upgraded Giant Metre-wave Radio Telescope, Germany's Effelsberg Radioteleskop, South Africa's MeerKAT, and the Low-Frequency Array in the Netherlands.

Why do radio telescopes matter?

Until the early 1930s, astronomers depended on the limited visible part of the electromagnetic spectrum to make observations, unaware of the enormous potential of the radio band lying at one end of the spectrum.

Their long wavelengths allow radio waves to traverse intergalactic space without interruption, making them an ideal tool to identify radio emissions from faraway heat sources.

In 1933, Bell Labs asked physicist and radio engineer Karl Jansky to find out if static was disrupting transatlantic radio communication. Jansky's investigations led him to the accidental discovery of radio waves coming from the centre of the Milky Way galaxy. He wanted to study the signals in detail and suggested Bell Labs build a large dish antenna.

But Bell Labs, merely interested in confirming that the static was not a problem for transatlantic communication, transferred Jansky to an obscure project unrelated to radio astronomy.

Fortunately, Jansky's pioneering findings endured and inspired other scientists to develop radio astronomy, thanks to which we know about intergalactic phenomena like pulsars (fast spinning neutron stars), dark matter, the cosmic microwave background (signals left over from the universe's birth) and, of course, FRBs.

> When a radio telescope spots an FRB, astronomers try to determine its dispersion value. From this, it is possible to calculate the distance to the FRB's source

Radio astronomers today are much better off with telescopes that can even localise FRBs with arc-second precision, so that observations in other wavelengths could hunt for the FBR's host galaxy.

So when a radio telescope spots an FRB, astronomers try to determine its dispersion value: the extent to which the FRB is stretched out when it reaches Earth. From this, it is possible to calculate the distance to the FRB's source.

By connecting dots like these, astronomers try to unravel cosmic mysteries and better understand the universe, of which hardly a fraction is known.

Prakash Chandra is a science writer.

A new North Korean rocket being launched in Cholsan county. REUTERS

A space race is underway on the Korean Peninsula

Reuters

It's been an eventful year for the rival space programmes of Seoul and Pyongyang: on May 25, South Korea for the first time used an indigenous launch vehicle to place a mission-capable satellite in orbit, and a few days later, North Korea launched a new rocket design from a new facility.

These rockets are the result of decades of development. South Korea's Nuri launcher is its first entirely indigenous design, and Seoul has ambitions of placing military and civilian satellites in orbit.

The North has cycled through several dramatically different launchers, and its Chollima-1 booster appears more advanced than anything it has flown to date, although its maiden test in May ended in failure.

While the programmes lag behind those of their neighbouring Japan and China, both nations have linked rockets to national pride. North Korean leader Kim Jong Un has called space "a demonstration of the overall national power" and former South Korean

Chollima-1 was launched from a new pad at Sohae built in just over a month, underscoring the political importance of the launch and the overall satellite programme

President Moon Jae-in said the first launch of the Nuri rocket in 2021 heralded the approach of a "Korea Space Age".

The North's latest push suggests it is serious about deploying operational satellites, said Jonathan McDowell, an astronomer and astrophysicist at the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics.

"The new phase of their program is clearly moving from an experimental 'get something into orbit' phase to a phase in which operational satellites will be in play," he said. "For now, low orbit recon satellites, but eventually I expect them to launch geostationary communications satellites too."

Both countries have poured resources into launch facilities.

South Korea's Naro Space Center, perched on cliffs overlooking the sea on southern Oenaro Island, opened in 2009 and has expanded in recent years.

North Korea built its first satellite launching facility at the eastern site of Tonghae in 1985. Sohae, on the west coast, was completed in 2011.

The Chollima-1 was launched from a new pad at Sohae built in just over a month, underscoring the political importance of the launch and the overall satellite programme, 38 North, a U.S.-based site that monitors North Korea, said in a June 7 report.

"The speed at which North Korea built the new coastal launch pad for the Chollima-1 at Sohae is astonishing," said Markus Schiller, a Europe-based missile expert. "This indicates they have the means to do that, and impressive resources at hand."

The next flight of South Korea's Nuri is expected in 2025. It plans to use the follow-on KSLV-III project as the mainstay of its spaceflight programme by 2030.

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

With *Oppenheimer* in theatres, a quiz about history's most powerful nuke

Vasudevan Mukunth

QUESTION 1

On October 30, 1961, the Soviet Union tested a nuclear weapon named AN602 – nicknamed ____ _____ – after dropping it with a parachute and detonating it 4 km above the cape of Sukhoy Nos. Fill in the blanks.

QUESTION 2

AN602 originally had a uranium-238 tamper around the third stage such that the primary fusion reaction would trigger a chain of fission reactions, making the bomb 3,000-times as powerful as the ones dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, but also disperse a great amount of radioactive fallout over Russian territory. So engineers replaced it with a tamper made of what?

QUESTION 3

The parachute used to drop AN602 before it detonated was made of _____. Making this parachute disrupted the Soviet Union's domestic hosiery industry at the time. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4

Ahead of the test, the U.S. had been notified and modified a KC-135A 'Stratotanker' aircraft to install a device recently invented to study atmospheric nuclear tests. Its name came from the Hindi word for an intoxicating drink consumed in India. Name the device.

QUESTION 5

The aircraft that dropped AN602 had had its underside painted with a colour designed to reflect thermal radiation from the nuclear test, in order to protect the vehicle and its occupants. Name the colour (in full).

Answers to July 25 quiz:

1. Pyrophoric alkali metal that explodes in contact with water – **Ans: Caesium**
2. Metal crucial to transmit signals between nerve cells – **Ans: Sodium**
3. Element that can react with powdered steel and asbestos – **Ans: Fluorine**
4. Element whose isotope is most common in human body – **Ans: Potassium**
5. Element used to bleach textiles and used as chemical weapon – **Ans: Chlorine**

First contact: Himanshu Verma | Thejasanuo Dzuvichu | Navin Kumar | Suthan Sadasivan | Anwesha Majhi

Visual: Name this man. He oversaw the development of AN602, and won a Nobel Peace Prize in 1975 for being the "conscience of mankind". RIA NOVOSTI ARCHIVE

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Serious shortage of HIV testing kits in State hits patients hard

The availability of Kit 1 is vital, as the result of this test is the basis for further investigations

Afshan Yasmeen
BENGALURU

Following an acute shortage of HIV test kit 1 and Whole Blood Finger Prick test kit (HIV test kit 4) in the State, testing has almost come to a standstill in the government-run Integrated Counselling and Testing Centres (ICTC) in several districts. A few centres that have the test kits are testing only emergency and high-risk cases for the last one month.

The State has 470 standalone ICTCs and 2,940 functional ICTCs. Counsellors and staff at these ICTCs confirmed to *The Hindu* that they had to face the wrath of patients for sending them back without testing. As of Wednesday, limited stocks of the test kits were reported from Bagalkot, Dakshina Kannada, Chikkamagaluru, Vijayapura, Hubballi-Dharwad, Ramanagara, Yadgir and Koppal districts.

The State has 470 standalone ICTCs and 2,940 functional ICTCs. FILE PHOTO

"We are just collecting the serum samples and asking the patients to come back for the reports. Many patients are upset and shout at us.

Also, there are chances of them not coming back for the reports and it is difficult for us to trace them if they are tested positive," said a counsellor from Ramanagara.

"The availability of Kit 1 is vital, as the result of this test is the basis for further investigations," said another counsellor from Mandya. Karnataka State AIDS Prevention Society (KSAPS) officials attributed the shortage to delay in supply of the kits from the National AIDS Control Organisation (NACO).

They said that NACO had written to all AIDS Prevention Societies in the country in the last week of June asking them to make local procurement for a period of three to six months.

Following this, State Health Commissioner Randeep D., wrote to all Deputy Commissioners, Chief Executive Officers of Zilla Panchayats, KSAPS Project Director, Mission Director of National Health Mission and, administrative heads of all government health facilities to procure the kits locally using Arogya Raksha Samithi (ARS), NHM and National Free Drugs Service (NFDS) funds. He has asked them to procure stocks for two months under provisions of the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (KTTP) Act, 1999.

"While District Hospitals can procure 1,500 test kits a month, Taluk Hospitals can procure 500 kits, CHCs 150 kits and PHCs 100 kits a month. The current market price of the test kit 1 and kit 4 is ₹ 17," stated the letter. Each kit can be used to test 50 to 90 people depending on the brand.

KSAPS Additional Project Director Ramesh Chandra Reddy said the issue was being sorted out. "We have stocks in some centres and are managing with internal adjustments. Until July 20, we had a stock of 2,42,285 test kits 1 (enough to last for a month) and 1,11,858 test kits 4 (enough to last for 15 days). The latest availability report for this week from the districts is expected on Thursday," he said.

KSAPS Joint Director (Basic Services) Ansar Ahmed, who is in charge of the programme, said there is a delay in supply of kits by NACO.

"As an alternative, we have called tenders to procure three lakh test kits (kit 4) and the procurement process will be completed within ten days. We are expecting supply of six lakh test kits (kit 1) from NACO in the next one week. This should be enough to last for three months. The issue will be sorted out soon," he said.

BMTC to receive the first prototype electric bus

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The BMTC will receive the first prototype electric bus from Tata Motors on Friday. The bus is part of the 921 non-AC electric buses which will be leased by them under the FAME-2 scheme. Tata Motors will supply, operate, and maintain the 12-metre electric buses for 12 years, as per the contract.

ADVERTISEMENT

Osteoarthritis is a degenerative joint disease that affects millions of people worldwide. Traditionally, treatment for osteoarthritis has been limited to pain medication, physical therapy, and joint replacement surgery. However, a new and innovative treatment option, SPMF-Therapy, is changing the game.

SPMF-Therapy, or Sequentially Programmed Magnetic Field - Therapy, is a non-invasive and drug-free treatment that uses precisely calibrated magnetic fields to regenerate worn-out cartilage in the joints. The therapy has demonstrated promising results in over 10,000 patients. These patients experienced significant pain reduction and improved joint mobility.

SPMF-Therapy reverses the damage caused by osteoarthritis, it can provide significant relief for individuals experiencing joint pain and stiffness. By addressing the underlying causes of osteoarthritis and promoting cartilage regeneration, SPMF-Therapy helps individuals manage their symptoms and improve their quality of life.

Shardaban Patel says, "My mother was treated at SBF Healthcare in 2013. Before that, she couldn't get up from her chair. We were advised to do Total Knee Replacement surgery but didn't. After 21 days of SPMF-Treatment, she felt much better. It's been many years now and she continues to do well, she continues to climb stairs even now. I am grateful to SBF Healthcare."

"I was skeptical about SPMF-Therapy at first, but after completing the treatment, I'm amazed at how much better I feel. My joint pain has significantly reduced, and I'm able to perform daily activities without discomfort. Thank you, SBF Healthcare, for helping me regain my quality of life!", says Revathi B.

SPMF-Therapy is a game-changer for those suffering from osteoarthritis. It's non-invasive and drug-free approach provides a safe and effective alternative to traditional treatment options. SPMF-Therapy will help you regain your mobility and improve your quality of life.

Book an appointment now!
Call or WhatsApp: 9900548375
Send a mail to: info@sbfhealthcare.com
Branches at: Marathahalli & J.P Nagar

Whitefield citizens to launch crowdsourcing platform to map building violations in the city

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

In a first, the Whitefield Citizens Ward Committee (WCWC) will be launching a crowdsourcing platform for people to report building and other violations in east Bengaluru. After gathering sufficient data, an interactive map will be created to spot violations.

The WCWC recently got the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Joint Commissioner (JC) of Mahadevapura zone to issue an order mandating that builders and owners of under-construction buildings display building plans approved by the Town Planning Department. After this the BBMP started issuing notices to builders for deviating from the original plan.

In continuation of the same, the WCWC will be starting an open digital platform for residents of Whitefield to report violations, like footpath encroachments, building plan deviation, illegal borewells, illegal digging, and illegal laying of Optical Fibre Cable.

The WCWC will create an open Google form, which will be posted on social media platforms and websites. FILE PHOTO

The WCWC will also be launching a dedicated website. The soft launch was done recently.

The WCWC will create an open Google form, which will be posted on websites, Twitter, WhatsApp groups and other social media platforms for residents to report violations and provide the location of the same.

Sandeep Anirudhan, Convenor, Namma Whitefield, said, "We are all heartened by the drive launched by JC Mahadevapura to curb illegalities. However, at the lower levels, we noticed that implementation is lacking. Or, after a special drive, the violations re-surface."

Constructions are still under way without display of approved building plan, and footpath encroachers are back a few days after they were removed. In the WCWC group, it was decided to support the JC with a follow-up activity, by crowd-sourcing reports via a 'Spot Violations campaign', through which people can report instances where violations continue, and the reports will be summarised and submitted to the JC.

"We plan to upload the same on an interactive online map with GPS locations, so that violations are exposed, and everyone can see them. This campaign will be popularised by all the RWA groups and citizen federations in the area, such as Namma Whitefield and Whitefield Rising.," Mr. Anirudhan informed.

In a first-of-its-kind initiative, the WCWC has launched a website and a Twitter handle to post updates on activities and meeting schedules, and to create awareness, popularise ward committee and to increase participation among people.

Anjali Saini of Whitefield Rising said this initiative also intends to show data management to BBMP officials, and how data can help resolve problems. The BBMP's Sahaya application does not provide data on types of complaints due to lack of transparency. With this new digital initiative, the data will help track violations, and also action taken, if any, by the BBMP.

Kargil Vijay Diwas

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Kristu Jayanti College Autonomous on Wednesday celebrated the 24th remembrance Day of Kargil Vijay Diwas. Fr. Dr. Augustine George, Principal,, and the management paid tribute to the martyrs.

Bengaluru becomes first Indian city to join World Cities Culture Forum

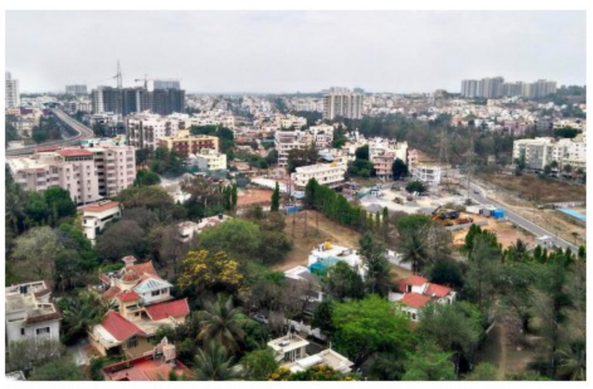
Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to become part of the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF,) a global network of cities that share research and intelligence, and explore the role of culture in future prosperity.

The network currently has 40 cities spanning six continents. Bengaluru being the latest addition is set to join the league of cities like New York, London, Paris, Tokyo and Dubai among others.

The global consortium was founded in 2012 by Justine Simons OBE, London's Deputy Mayor for Culture & the Creative Industries.

"We have been keen to have an Indian city and a lot of other cities that are part of the network have also been keen about it. Bengaluru is a fast-growing city. It's very diverse and has got a big commitment to culture," said Ms. Simons in an exclusive interaction with *The Hindu*.



The network currently has 40 cities spanning six continents, Bengaluru being the latest addition. FILE PHOTO

"It feels like there is real ambition and drive in Bengaluru around the culture story. It is known as a tech city in the rest of the world. This is a fantastic opportunity for Bengaluru to bring the cultural story alongside the tech story, and to really grow its economy and its status as a global city," she added.

Bengaluru's entry into WCCF comes after several discussions that have been happening for over a year.

Unboxing Bangalore, a participative project to create a new narrative around Bengaluru through multimedia properties, have been representing the city and leading the discussions. "Bengaluru, in many ways, represents an aspirational India. There is a lot of culture to the city that is not being talked about," said Prashanth Prakash, chairman of UnboxingBLR Foundation and founding partner at Accel India.

(Detailed interview in e-paper)

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

‘Bengaluru is a fast-growing city, very diverse and has a big commitment to culture’

Bengaluru joins the league of 40 global cities, including New York, London, Paris, and Tokyo, as part of the World Cultural Forum

INTERVIEW

Justine Simons and Prashanth Prakash

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

File photos of the Vidhana Soudha illuminated during the inauguration of Bengaluru International Film Festival, (right) visitors at Kadalekai Parishe, and (below) the crowd during Karaga procession.

Justine Simons.

Prashanth Prakash.

World Cities Culture Forum was founded in 2012 by Justine Simons OBE, London’s Deputy Mayor for Culture & the Creative Industries. Unboxing Bangalore, a participative project to create a new narrative around Bengaluru through multimedia properties, has been representing the city and leading the discussions. *The Hindu* spoke to Ms. Simons and Prashanth Prakash, chairman of UnboxingBLR Foundation and founding partner at Accel India.

Bengaluru has become the first Indian city to be part of the World Cities Culture Forum (WCCF). What is the Indian perspective it can offer to the network and what does it stand to achieve

Prashanth Prakash: Bengaluru is a dynamic city representing an aspirational India in many ways. It has also been a melting pot of different cultures within the country and is one of the oldest cities, which very few people know about. There is a lot of culture in the city that is not being talked about. Having a global forum like WCCF and not being part of it was a huge waste of opportunity for a city like Bengaluru that has the aspiration to take the city’s culture globally.

But more than that, we wanted to learn from a forum and platform like WCCF as to what it takes to build cultural vibrancy within the city. We are very young or amateur in that aspect because our priorities, as a city, have been different. But when other things keep taking precedence, you lose the identity of the city and what is unique to that city.

A lot has been happening in the cultural space in the city. Those inspired us to think that we need something like Unboxing to bring together all such well-meaning unique initiatives under one platform. Once we had that participation of people under Unboxing Bangalore, it became a no-brainer that Bengaluru needs to be a part of something like WCCF which helps create collaboration and exchange between multiple cities across the world. Those were some of the initial catalysts that made this happen.

Justine Simone: We, as well as a lot of cities that are part of the network, have been keen to have an Indian city as part of the Forum. Bengaluru is a fast-growing city. It is very diverse and has got a big commitment to culture.

It feels like there is real ambition and drive in Bengaluru around the culture story. It is known as a tech city in the rest of the world. This is a fantastic opportunity for Bengaluru to bring the cultural story alongside the tech story.

What helped Bengaluru become a member of WCCF?

Prakash: It started in a serendipitous manner with Justine and her team meeting Abhishek Poddar, who started the Museum of Art and Photography (MAP), in London. He suggested that if we were to become a part of WCCF there was a lot to exchange and co-benefit.

Once we started talking to Justine, we saw there were a lot of shared ideas. We wanted to learn from the 40 other cities that were part of the forum. For us, it was a moment of pride that we could be part of this forum and learn and accelerate our journey of being that city that can engage its citizens with culture. Bengaluru has attracted citizens from across the world. I don’t think there’s any other city that has cultural pockets. Multiple microcosms of India are culturally represented in this city.

Culture is also a big unifier. Today there are apprehensions about different groups within the city. This happens because we don’t understand what they can offer to the city culturally.

Simone: It was just about a year ago when I went to lunch with Abhishek. He was talking to me about the vision for culture in Bengaluru and I was talking about WCCF. And it seemed to be an obvious connection to bring Bengaluru into this global leadership network.

We’re looking for global cities that champion and advocate for culture to become our members. And it is really clear in Bengaluru that there is real commitment and vision around culture.

What kind of collaborative activities can we expect to see in Bengaluru in collaboration with WCCF?

Prakash: We are planning a Bangalore festival in the first 10 days of December where we are thinking of showcasing multiple aspects of our culture - a very vibrant design community, theatre community, food, the Bangalore beer culture, and much more. We want to learn from this forum how such festivals are run globally. For example, in terms of ticketing the Edinburgh Festival is only next to the Olympics and the World Cup. We certainly have a long way to go from piloting this festival to becoming as huge as the Edinburgh Festival. But we want to put that to the test at this festival.

Simone: Bengaluru, as a member, has been invited to join the next WCCF global summit in October in Sao Polo. Bengaluru will also be a part of our future World City Culture Reports. That means there will be a city profile of Bengaluru and all of Bengaluru’s data around culture will then be part of this global landmark report. Bengaluru will be featured as the first Indian city in this global data set. As a member, Bengaluru can also apply for our Leadership Exchange.

A bit about WCCF

Simone: The motivation to form WCCF was really simple - that we’re better together. Cities can achieve so much more by working together, being generous with our ideas, and learning from each other to tackle common challenges and realise the potential of culture in our cities. What really struck me was that even though all of our world cities are different in their culture, character, population, and communities, there are always common challenges that big cities face.

We are deliberately focused on big cities because there is something really particular about the scale of a world city in terms of the challenges and opportunities.

Today, we’ve grown exponentially. We have 40 cities spanning six continents. We believe in culture as a transformative force in cities.

We talk about culture as a golden thread, something that threads through all aspects of city life like health and wellbeing, jobs, economy, and so on. In London, one in every seven jobs is a creative one and is worth about 60 billion pounds a year to the London economy. Tourists are another aspect. Culture brings communities together and builds bridges when there are none.

The challenge we face as cities is that culture often is not on the top priority list. Our job as a global leadership network is to advocate for the fundamental transformative power and value of culture in cities. And to really amplify and unlock this idea of culture as a golden thread.

In practice, we do three things.

Every year we hold a global summit where we all come together. This year it is in October in Sao Polo and that is when in real life we roll up our sleeves and get into the skin of common challenges. It is a global platform for sharing our policy ideas, challenges, and opportunities.

The second is data. We produce a landmark report on culture in world cities. It’s called the World Cities Culture Report. It is the go-to source for data on culture.

The third is the Leadership Exchange which is funded by Bloomberg Philanthropies. That is about going deeper. Often, we find there is a cluster of cities fighting common problems. Exchange is about going a lot deeper into those problems and trying to find solutions through exchanges between the cities involved.

Post-pandemic the world has been going through turmoil. What is the relevance of culture and WCCF in this context?

Simone: The world has been facing lots of challenges and changes like climate crisis, political instability, mass migration, and more. I believe that means culture is more important than ever. Culture is a growing area of the economy itself. Culture is something that supports individual human beings in crisis. People return to music and dance and other forms of culture and creative expression in difficult times, for inspiration, and energy.

Women domestic workers of Bengaluru demand fair wages and social security

The event sought to address hardships faced by these workers in the city, including poor working conditions and denial of wages

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

The issues that were discussed at the programme included the need to treat domestic workers with equality, dignity, and respect.

Chenamma, who once worked as a domestic worker, is struggling to find work. “I feel healthy mentally and physically when I work. However, because I am old now, no household or office wants me as a domestic help,” says the 60-year-old, adding that she does not enjoy borrowing money from her family.

Like most other people who work in the unorganised sector, Chenamma, has no financial backup. “I don’t have any government services like PF or ESI, and domestic work is the only way I can meet my daily needs,” she says.

Chenamma was one of the many women who participated in a public hearing focusing on the rights of female domestic workers’ rights, held at the St Joseph’s College of Commerce on Wednesday. Organised by the Domestic Workers Rights Union and spearheaded by activist Geeta Menon, the event sought to address hardships faced by these workers in the city, including poor working conditions and denial of wages.

Another participant was Lakshmamma, who was denied wages by her former employer. As union workers pointed out, that the labour laws of the county do not recognise domestic work as “work.” The negotiation of wages is often arbitrary and the decision of the employer is final, they added.

Other issues

Soni, a domestic worker from Jharkhand, spoke about the challenges she faced as a live-in migrant worker. “I was brought to Delhi by an agent from Jharkhand and then sent to Bengaluru,” says Soni, alleging that she was a victim of trafficking. The conditions she dealt with back then were horrific. “I lived with a family as a domestic help. I was allowed to rest only for three hours a day. My salary was also very minimal,” she says, adding that it took her many years to escape this situation. She now lives independently and works for multiple employers.

Some of the other issues that were discussed at the event included workplace safety, health, protection, social security accident cases, health, post-COVID-19 issues, sexual harassment, theft allegations, domestic work in the gig economy, and more. Senior domestic workers also spoke about how the removal or non-inclusion of their names in smart cards or e-Shram cards has made it difficult to meet their daily needs.

A similar public hearing was conducted in 2021, to form a jury and suggested measures

A similiar attempt

A citizen jury, which comprised senior advocate B.T. Venkatesh, social-political activist Akkai Padmashali, environmental activist and ex-MLA Sowmya Reddy, retired IAS officer Renuka Vishwanathan and senior members of the Domestic Workers Rights Union, offered suggestions on combating these issues at the program.

A similar public hearing was conducted in 2021, where the domestic workers came together to form a jury and suggested measures to various government departments to address their issues. Some of the issues that were discussed, included the following: the need to treat domestic workers with equality, dignity, and respect, measures to establish better working conditions, and the necessity of forums between employees and employers, among other things.

However, since the union saw no response or change through the government departments, this time the union chose to engage with a citizen jury. The Domestic Workers’ Rights Union currently works in three major cities of Karnataka -- Bengaluru, Mangaluru and Belgavi. In the past decade, the union has built up an active union of women workers to build ground leadership and a conscious identity of women workers.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 27, 1973

Paddy Growers Must be Paid More: Mysore’s view

Bangalore, July 26: State takeover of the wholesale trade in paddy in Mysore is dependent on the coming Chief Ministers conference deciding to pay a more attractive price to the growers.

According to the present programme, the wholesale trading is to be taken over from September 15, when the new “food year” commences.

The State Cabinet which to-day discussed preliminaries in connection with the State trading in paddy, agreed to retain the levy system as a key component of the State trading.

The State Government’s considered view is that the success of the scheme is conditional on assuring a realistic purchase price. This is to be restated at the Chief Ministers conference on food.

Construction of Mini-theatres

Bangalore, July 26: Mr. K.K. Murthy, Managing Director, Mysore State Film Industries Corporation said here yesterday that the Corporation intended to entrust the construction of the 200 mini theatres it had planned to construct to unemployed engineers. The Corporation would also consider leasing the theatres to such engineers.

Mr. Murthy was speaking at a function got by the Medical Aid Society to felicitate him on his becoming the patron of the society.

Mr. Murthy urged the government to meet 50 per cent of the expenditure of the society.

INBRIEF

Chief Minister to visit four rain-hit districts on July 31

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah will visit the rain-hit districts of Dakshina Kannada, Udupi, Uttara Kannada, and Chikkamgaluru on July 31 to take stock of the situation.

Disclosing this to media persons in Bengaluru on Wednesday, the Chief Minister said already Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda had visited another rain-hit district of Kodagu.

UCC: Muslim Personal Law Board members meet CM

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Wednesday assured Muslim Personal Law Board representatives, who expressed concern over the threat to their rights due to the moves by the Centre to implement the Uniform Civil Code (UCC), that his government would protect the rights of minorities.

The delegation of the board met him on Wednesday and expressed concern about the threat to the rights of Muslims and the Muslim Personal Law due to the moves to implement the UCC. The previous Law Commission had rejected the Union government's proposal in this regard saying that implementation of the UCC was not feasible in this diverse country. But now the Centre had asked the present Law Commission to review the matter again, the representatives of the board said. Accordingly, they pointed out that, the Law Commission was collecting the opinion from the public. On behalf of the board, more than one crore people had signed the petition against the implementation of the UCC and the petition had been sent to the Law Commission, the board representatives said.

The Chief Minister said, "We would respond to the Centre after the publication of the draft UCC. Our government will never allow suppression of minorities' rights." He alleged the Centre was creating unnecessary controversy in this regard keeping in mind the Lok Sabha polls.

Row over Parameshwara's letter to Home Secretary on reviewing riots cases

Home Minister said none had sought withdrawal of cases, but only a review to see if any innocents were booked; BJP dubs the move as 'appeasement'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A letter written by Home Minister G. Parameshwara to the Home Secretary to take "suitable action" on senior Congress MLA Tanveer Sait's letter, which requested the withdrawal of cases against "innocents" in riot cases in places including D.J. Halli in Bengaluru, Shivamogga, and Hubballi has caused a stir.

Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) took up a social media campaign condemning the letter on Wednesday. Several prominent BJP leaders alleged that the letter was a clear sign of "minority appeasement" by the Congress government. Many recalled that the previous Congress regime led by Siddaramaiah had withdrawn cases against the Popular Front of India (PFI), which was eventually banned for terror activities in 2022.

A file photo of remains of vehicles torched during riots being removed at D.J. Halli in Bengaluru.

Clarification

However, Dr. Parameshwara clarified that neither he nor Mr. Sait had sought withdrawal of cases, but only a review of these cases to see if any innocents had been booked in them. "The review may lead to a decision that cases cannot be withdrawn as well," he said.

Mr. Sait, speaking to media persons on Wednesday, said he had not asked for cases against everyone to be withdrawn. "Many students have been booked in these cases. Parents of these students and youths have been claiming their children are innocents and are framed in these cases. So I only appealed for a review of these cases and see if any innocents have been framed. I have not mentioned any community and don't understand why the BJP is making it communal," he said.

Where the cases stand

Mr. Sait's letter seeks a review of cases in the D.J. Halli riots where violence broke out in 2020 following a derogatory remark on Prophet Mohammed on social media. The case is presently with the National Investigation Agency (NIA) and sources said the State government did not have powers to review terror charges in the case.

Other cases pertain to riots in Shivamogga in May 2022, following the murder of Hindutva activist Harsha, and riots in Hubballi in April 2022 over a social media post. While the case pertaining to the murder of the Hindutva activist has been transferred to the NIA, the Shivamogga and Hubballi riots cases are with the State police.

What BJP leaders said

The former Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai said the arrests in these cases were made based on video evidence and the arrested were not innocents. "The gravity of the crime is very severe; they have torched police stations. If they are given any protection, it will amount to supporting terrorists," he claimed. Senior leaders K. S. Eshwarappa and V. Sunil Kumar were among the many leaders who tweeted.

CLP meet today to address legislators' grievances

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar with participants at the National Youth Congress convention in Bengaluru on Wednesday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting on Thursday comes amid simmering discontent among MLAs, who have been denied ministerial berths and have made critical remarks against the two-month-old government led by Chief Minister Siddaramaiah.

Many senior MLAs have apparently thumbed down the functioning of close to two dozen Ministers for not responding to their demands for release of funds for development works in their constituencies and transfer of officials.

Listen to legislators

Prior to the CLP meeting, Mr. Siddaramaiah would chair a Cabinet meeting on Thursday and he is expected to instruct Ministers to listen to legislators' grievances on priority to douse discontent.

According to Congress leaders, party president M. Mallikarjun Kharge would attend the meet and he is expected to provide suggestions to Ministers about their functioning. The MLAs are demanding funds for their constituency-related work which they had promised during elections. The government has been facing fund crunch on account of the implementation of the five guarantees that would cost more than ₹50,000 crore annually.

Letter to CM

A group of MLAs has apparently written to Mr. Siddaramaiah, who is the CLP leader, to summon a meeting to discuss the issues. The legislators complained that much of the construction work of buildings such as anganwadis, schools and colleges, roadworks, and drinking water schemes had remained incomplete and demanded release of funds.

That tension was rising among party leaders was apparent when senior party leader B.K. Hariprasad, MLC, who was denied ministerial berth, said that "he knows how to make Chief Ministers and bring them down too".

However, Mr. Siddaramaiah brushed aside speculation of discontent in the party, saying a CLP meeting had been convened on July 19 but it had to be postponed following the death of former Kerala Chief Minister Oommen Chandy.

Deputy Chief Minister and KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar said no one had written any letter to Mr. Siddaramaiah and denied that there was any disgruntlement. But he said that MLAs had been told to wait for implementation of their constituency-level works since the government had been implementing the guarantees on priority.

What MLAs want

"Each MLA is asking for sums in the range of ₹100 crore to ₹300 crore for works in their constituencies. How can we provide ₹300 crore to each MLA? We have told them to keep their plans on hold," the KPCC president said. On transfer of officials, he said: "There are demands from MLAs for a say in the transfer of officials; some transfers have been made by Ministers and some others by the Chief Minister."

Sources in the party said delay in the appointment of heads to various boards and corporations had not gone well with legislators.

Disputes between entities of govt. should be resolved via resolution mechanism: HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The court declines to adjudicate petition of a govt. agency over compensation for land acquired for metro project

Observing that differences between the entities of the State government cannot land up before the courts and should be resolved in a separate platform, the High Court of Karnataka has refused to adjudicate the dispute between two entities of the government over the quantum of compensation for acquiring land for metro project.

Instead, the court has referred to the Chief Secretary a petition filed by the Special Agricultural Produce Market Committee for Fruits, Flowers and Vegetables, Bengaluru, seeking higher compensation from Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd. (BMRCL).

While declining to adjudicate the petition at present Justice S. Sunil Dutt Yadav set up a committee headed by the Chief Secretary to resolve the dispute within three months.

However, the court gave liberty to the Special APMC for Fruits, Flowers and Vegetables and other parties to the petition to come back to the court if the Chief Secretary, after the resolution process, comes to the conclusion that the dispute cannot be resolved due to any legal impediment and it has to be decided by the court.

Litigation policy

Pointing out that the apex court had repeatedly criticised government entities for approaching the courts against each other over trivial issues not involving any serious question of law, the High Court said that even the Karnataka State Dispute Resolution Policy, 20212, too prescribes setting up of Inter-Departmental Dispute Redressal Committee, headed by the Chief Secretary or Additional Chief Secretary for resolution of the disputes between its entities.

"The above approach is not only the mandate of the law, but would go a long way towards avoiding disputes between State and its entities contributing to increased workload as the State and its entities have to contribute to lowering matters that end up before courts for adjudication in a meaningful manner," Justice Yadav observed.

Separate BPL cards to be issued to avail ration, medical facilities

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

This will not only reduce the total quantum of rice required under the Anna Bhagya scheme but also help in targeting the needy, says Muniyappa

Food and Civil Supplies Minister K.H. Muniyappa on Wednesday announced that the government had decided to issue separate categories of BPL cards for those seeking subsidised ration and those who want cards only for the purpose of availing of medical facilities.

Speaking to media persons in Bengaluru, the Minister observed that several families were keen to get BPL cards only for the purpose of availing of medical facilities and that they were not interested in getting free rice.

Following this, the government had decided to issue different categories of BPL cards depending upon their requirements, he said. This would not only reduce the total quantum of rice required under the Anna Bhagya scheme but also help in targeting the needy people, he said.

He said his department would get a survey done to know how many eligible families would want the BPL cards only for the purpose of medical facilities.

Of the total 1.28 crore BPL card holders in the State, only 97.27 lakh were getting the benefit of cash transfer instead of rice. This was because 30.9 lakh card holders were either yet to link their Aadhaar or did not have bank accounts. A few of them were yet to change the name of the head of the family where the family heads had died, he explained. Hence the government decided to send a circular to all the deputy directors of the Food Department in the districts asking them to help such families complete the formalities.

Probe ordered

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The government has directed the Forest Department to conduct an inquiry into the allegations of clandestine disposal of carcass of a tiger and a leopard in Bandipur more than five years ago. The alleged incident is said to have taken place in 2018 and 2019.

TKM to set up 30 GTTC institutes

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) will set up 30 Government Tool Room and Training Centre (GTTC) institutes in Karnataka for developing skilled human resources for the manufacturing units and start-up entrepreneurs. The primary aim was to bridge the gap between academia and the industry, providing crucial support to various industries by producing a highly employable, skilled and disciplined workforce, said H. Raghvendra, GTTC MD.

ELECTRONICS CORPORATION OF TAMIL NADU LIMITED
(ELCOT) Chennai - 35
TENDER NOTICE
ELCOT invites bids for supply of the following tender

Tender No.	ELCOT/PROC/OT/33715/CMWSSB Hardware/2023-24
Tender Details	Tender for Establishment of Geo-Spatial Information System IT Infrastructure and Application Centre of CMWSSB
Pre- Bid Meeting	03.08.2023 @ 11.30 AM
Tender Submission Due date and Time	29.08.2023 @ 03.00 PM
Tender Opening Date & Time	29.08.2023 @ 04.00 PM
Earnest Money Deposit	Rs. 10,00,000/-
e-Portal Charges	Rs.11,800/-

The Bidders may download the tender documents, help documents and user manuals from **https://tntenders.gov.in**
DIPR/4104/Tender/2023
MANAGER (PROCUREMENT), ELCOT, 692, II Floor, M.H.U. Complex, Anna Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035
e-mail: **md@elcot.in** URL: **www.elcot.in**
'சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்'

GREATER CHENNAI CORPORATION
SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
S.W.M.C.No.A7/4329/2023 **E - TENDER SHORT NOTICE**
E-Tender is invited for the following work by Superintending Engineer (SWM) in Solid Waste Management Department.

Description	Estimate cost
Supply of 200 Nos. of Animators, 15 Nos. of Zonal Supervisors and 1 No. of Co-ordinator to carry out IEC activities on outsourcing basis under Swachh Bharat Mission in 15 Zones in Greater Chennai Corporation.	Rs. 444.42 lakhs

Tenderer can view and download the details of E-Tender from website http://tntenders.gov.in and may participate in tender on or before 17.08.2023, 3.00 p.m. Bids received online will be opened on 18.08.2023 at 3.30 p.m. EMD Amount Rs.4,45,000/- should be pay online payment through E-tender portal details given in Tender Document
DIPR / 4080 / Tender / 2023
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம் சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம் **Superintending Engineer (SWM)**

PUBLIC NOTICE
Our client, **R. Hari Babu, S/o. Late. R. Krishna murthy,** R/at No.343, 7th Cross, 21st Main, 1st Sector, H.S.R.Layout, Agara, Bengaluru-560102. Hereby informs the general public that the Joint Development Agreement entered into which is registered as **Document No. JPN-1-01085-2013-14** in **Book-1** and stored in **CD No.JPND208** in the office of Senior Sub-registrar, Jayanagar (J.P.Nagar) Bengaluru and General Power of Attorney registered as **Document No. JPN-4-00034-2013-14** in **Book-4** and stored in **CD No.JPND208** in the office of Senior Sub Registrar, Jayanagar (J.P.Nagar) Bengaluru dated **07.05.2013** in favour of **B. Poornachandra Reddy** office at No.106/1, Doddathoguru, Electronic City Phase-1, Bengaluru-560100 in respect of land bearing **Sy.No.66/2 at Chikkathoguru Village, Beguru Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk,** measuring to an extent of **10 guntas** are terminated by the issue of notice. Any person dealing with the said B.Poornachandra Reddy will doing so at their risk.
M/s.H.R.ANANTHAKRISHNAMURTHY
& Associates, Advocates
NO.140, Infantry road, Bengaluru-560001.
Ph: 74838 60369
Place: Bangalore Date: 27-07-2023

BHUBANESWAR MUNICIPAL CORPORATION
e-Procurement Notice
e-Mail: ce@bmc.gov.in

1. Bid Reference No. : BMC-DIV-1- 10/2023-24 Dt. 26.07.23
2. Tender Call Notice No : 35410 dtd. 26.07.2023
3. Number of Work : 1 Nos (One)
4. Bid Value : Rs. 3,21,38,322.00
5. Period of Completion : 120 days

Critical Dates:

Sl. No.	Description	Critical Dates
(i)	Period of availability of tenders on-line for bidding.	From Dt. 27-07-2023 from 11.00 AM to Dt. 18-08-2023 upto 5.00 PM
(ii)	Last date & time of seeking clarifications (if any).	Dt.01-08-2023 up to 5.00 PM
(iii)	Pre Bid Meeting	At 11.30 a.m. of Date - 01-08-2023
(iv)	Uploading of Pre Bid Meeting Proceedings	At 12.00 hrs of Date - 01-08-2023
(v)	Last date & time of bidding on-line	Dt. 18-08-2023 up to 5.00 PM
(vi)	Date & time of opening of the Technical Bids received on-line	Dt. 19-08-2023 (11.00 AM onwards)
(vii)	Date & time of opening of Price Bid / Financial Bid/DTCN Part-II	To be intimated later to the bidder(s) found qualified after checking and evaluation of Technical Bids received on-line.

6. Tender details can be seen for the e-Procurement portal **https://www.tendersodisha.gov.in** & BMC Website **https:// www.bmc.gov.in**

City Engineer, Bhubaneswar Municipal Corporation
C - 916
OIPR-13002/11/0088/2324

TAMIL NADU LIVESTOCK DEVELOPMENT AGENCY,
IV Floor, Integrated Office Complex for Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Department,
571, Anna Salai, Saidapet Veterinary Polyclinic Campus,Nandanam P.O., Chennai - 35. **e-mail:** tnlda2016@gmail.com
e-TENDER NOTICE
E-Tenders are invited from eligible tenderers online through https://tntenders.gov.in for the following item under "Two part System"

e-Tender Ref. No.	Name of the item	Zone wise in Tamil Nadu	Total quantity (in liters)
TNLDA/2023/04	Liquid Nitrogen	South Zone	5,00,800
		West Zone	9,56,400
		North Zone	10,84,800
		East Zone	8,24,400
		Total	33,66,400

Pre-Bid meeting on 01.08.2023 – 11.30 am
Individual tender documents with full details can be downloaded free of cost from https://tntenders.gov.in upto **10.08.2023, 10.00 am.** Last date for submission of tenders: **11.08.2023, 11.00 am** Corrigendum/Addendum to this publication, if any, would appear only on the above website
DIPR/4105/Tender/2023
Chief Executive Officer.
சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம். சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்.

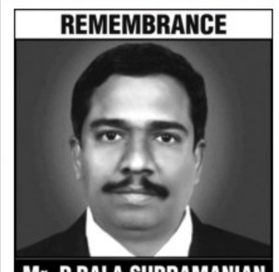
OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

S. RAGHAVAN (89) , Retired Packer , The Hindu, Chennai passed away on 26-07-2023. Address: 2/37, Arimuthu Achari Street, Triplicane, Chennai-600005. Contact: 9841724849

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

REMEMBRANCE



Mr. P.BALA SUBRAMANIAN
23.06.1957 - 27.07.2009

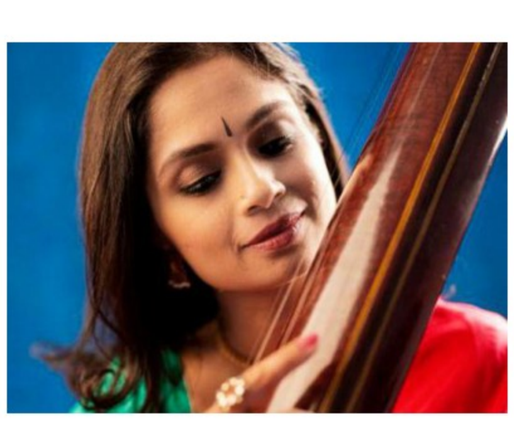
Marking the 14th death anniversary of PB Sir, we honor a leader whose love for us was as profound as his wisdom. His absence is still deeply felt, and his teachings continue to guide us. He dreamed of a bright future, and it is this vision that we strive to realize. PB Sir, your genuine affection for us touched our hearts and continues to inspire us. In return, we hold you in the highest regard and deep respect. As we miss you, we also continue to uphold your invaluable legacy. Rest in peace, PB Sir. Your memory lives on in our work and our hearts."

With Heartfelt Remembrance of our Beloved Founder
Family Members & Employees of
BASE
BASE Automation Technologies Pvt. Ltd.,

CITYBEATS

Just for laughs

JULY 28, 8PM
Amit Tandon is all geared up for his stand-up comedy act in Bengaluru.
Also popular as 'The Married Guy', Amit has performed cross the globe and his videos garner 100 million views on social media platforms.
At Phoenix Marketcity. Tickets on BookMyShow



Poetry through music

JULY 30, 6PM
Unwind with an evening of poetry, classical and contemporary music, that explore various facets of love.
The event will include an eclectic mix of poetry set to music by composers including Mirabai, Jayadeva, Akka Mahadevi. and will be sung by Manasi Prasad.
At Courtyard Koota.

A fundraising dance

JULY 29
JD Sports and Adventures is organising a Rajasthani Dance show called *Padharo Mhare Des*, in association with the Rotary Bangalore Jayanagar, Koramangala, Nagarbhavi and Udyog. Funds raised will go towards providing nutrition kits to pregnant women in rural areas in and around Bangalore. Tickets on Townscript.
At Prabhath Kaladwaraka, Koramangala

Meet the family farmers

Nidhi Adlakha

Here are the stories of three farmers in Karnataka making farm-fresh coconut sugar, banana gummies, natural wine, and more

Magadha Vana

Nestled in the foothills of the Western Ghats (approximately 35 kilometers from Udupi town) and adjoining the Someshwara Wildlife Sanctuary, is this 6.5-acre biodiversity farm. Magadha (pepper in Sanskrit) Vana (forest) came into existence in May 2018, "guided by a vision to create an environment-friendly, self-sustaining food forest experience", says founder Siva Sankar. Over time, the farm progressed into nurturing coconut, pepper, cashews, cocoa, plantain, nutmeg, cloves, cinnamon, lime, and turmeric as major crops, apart from areca nut, the main cash crop of this region. "Fruit-bearing trees such as guava, wax apple, rose apple, jackfruit, and mangoes of different varieties were already growing plentifully here, and we added tropical varieties including rambutan, mangosteen, avocado, banana and star fruit."

As the team added to the diversity of crops, Siva realised it was important to convert the produce into ready-to-use products. "It was a natural progression," he says of his catalogue that includes coconut oil, moringa powder, roasted cacao nibs, dried kokum rinds, dried monkey jack, turmeric powder, turmeric latte mix, green pepper preserve, white and black pepper, exfoliating body scrubs, banana gummies (sun-dried ripened bananas), chewy jack (dehydrated ripened jackfruit), raw jack flour, raw banana flour, forest honey, black turmeric powder, preserved breadfruit, and a ready-to-pickle base. Cultivating local vegetables as per seasonal cycles became a necessity for tailoring a farm-to-table food experience for guests, says Siva, who also runs a farm-stay.

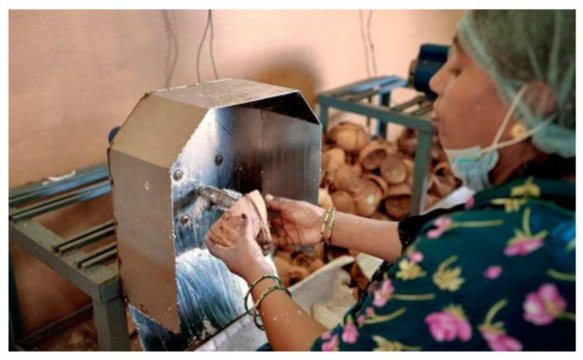
Exotic and rare spices, medicinal tubers and herbs are cultivated here in small quantities.

"Developing an acre of agroforestry with 500+ teak, mahogany and red sanders was a conscious effort towards avoiding dependency on limited water resources. With this, a few varieties of bamboo were also planted along the boundaries."

Siva believes today's consumer is curious about where their food is coming from, and how it is being processed and packed. "It is not just the social-media savvy patrons, but in general, people want to know their farmer and are enthusiastic about procuring farm fresh produce directly," he says.

For details, Whatsapp 6366977723, @magadha_vana on Instagram.

> Developing an acre of agroforestry with 500+ teak, mahogany and red sanders was a conscious effort towards avoiding dependency on limited water resources
>
> –**SIVA SANKAR,** FOUNDER, MAGADHA VAN



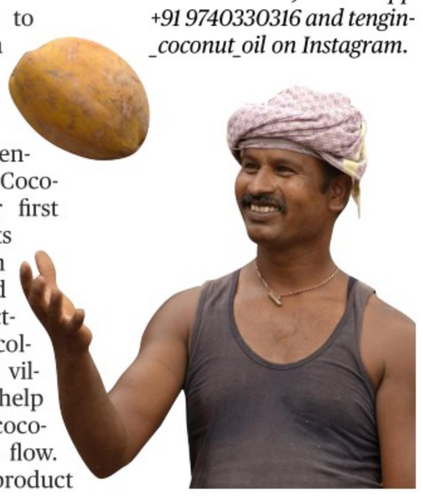
Tengin

Born and raised in a small village called Kargunda in Karnataka's Hassan district, Madhu Kargund spent most of his childhood on farms. "My father is a farmer, and I vividly remember my weekends and summer vacations spent on farms," says Madhu, who went on to pursue a career in IT and worked as a software engineer for eight years. "I was still connected to my roots and learned about zero-budget natural farming from agriculturalist Subash Palekar. Fascinated with the multi-crop model, I decided to implement it in my village where several farmers had migrated due to the lack of a sustainable income in agriculture."

And thus, Tengin was born. Coconut was their first choice given its abundance in the region, and Madhu connected with small collectives in the villages to help convert their coconuts into cash flow. After sharing product samples with friends and participating in farmers' markets, Madhu now has a steady clientele to whom he retails cold-pressed virgin coconut oil, chips, coconut sugar and jaggery, as well as bowls, containers, coffee mugs and soap dishes crafted with coconut shells.

Madhu says he has witnessed an increased interest in farm-made products, post-lockdown. "Being transparent in how our products are made also helped. We have put in a lot of effort to curate new products and teach our women's collectives and stalls across apartments to share our story," adds Madhu.

For details, Whatsapp +91 9740330316 and tengin_coconut_oil on Instagram.



Annadana

This agro-ecology knowledge hub in Bengaluru is home to a two-acre chemical-free food forest comprising over 8,000 plant species and a seed hub. Founder Sangita Sharma says their "self-sufficient farms" support the livelihoods of local communities, and produce "a rich diversity of heirloom vegetables, fruits, spices, herbs, cereals and grains as well as cold pressed oils." Recently, coffee and cocoa were added to this list. A mini dairy not only powers their community kitchen with biogas, but churns out cottage cheese, cakes, biscuits, conserves, jams, ketchup, butter and ghee.

Elaborating on the value-added products they retail to long-standing customers, she says cold pressed oils, organic star gooseberry elixir (a natural wine in five distinct herb flavours), spices such as turmeric, chilly powder, peppercorn, cinnamon, cloves and cardamom comprise their fast-moving products. There are also indigenous rice varieties, rice and wheat flour, legumes, corn, millet, and oilseeds on their list.

Close to 60% of the perishables get sold out, says Sangita. Cakes, bread, and dairy products such as rosemary butter, whey, and cottage cheese infused with herbs are by order only. "10% of the farm produce is shared within our community, and the balance 30% is left for seed for ongoing food security programmes," she explains.

In the pipeline is an online portal 'Foods that Heal' (FTH) that "aims to provide a holistic understanding of where our food comes from, what has gone wrong, and how we can reverse our current food purchasing habits with simple informed measures. It will provide a diverse range of healing services including know your food combinations, what foods to avoid during an illness, the right way to eat grains, and more."

To order, Whatsapp +91 9035724711, +91 8088347413

An Odissi interpretation of Tagore's *Natir Puja*

Shilpa Anandraj

Dancer's Worship, an Odissi dance production, is choreographed by Odissi dancer Sharmila Mukerjee. The dance is based on Rabindranath Tagore's play *Natir Puja,* says Sharmila. "The dance drama revolves around a courtesan called Srimati. *Natir Puja* translates to 'devotion of the court-dancer' and it talks about the untainted spirit of this humble dancer, who perceives herself as undeserving even to be present in the presence of Buddha's teachings."

Sharmila says she chose this particular work for her dance ballet as she wanted to work with something that was not adapted before.

"*Natir* Puja is about a dancer's spiritual journey and at the same time takes a critical look at Buddhism, which at that time was creating an imbalance in society. I found this aspect interesting."

The dancer, who is a student of the late Kelucharan Mohapatra, says it is her aim to bring in more youngsters to classical dance forms with dance choreographies.

"The foundation for Odissi is strongly laid by Kelu Babu, our work is a small attempt to keep this legacy alive and also keeping our creativity ticking".

Sharmila says, the ballet is predominantly Odissi, with a bit of Chau and a spot of karate. "One of my students who is into the martial art does the karate."

Sharmila will perform with an ensemble from her dance school, Sanjali.

The production will be presented on July 30 at Bangalore International Centre, Domlur, at 6.30pm. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Dancing to the tunes of capitalism and consumerism

Preeti Zachariah

"We are using too much of everything," says Deepanwita Roy, a contemporary dancer, choreographer, video maker and movement educator, who shuttles between Bengaluru and Siliguri. Her upcoming production, *What's Going On Here?* is an attempt to highlight the effects of rampant capitalism and consumerism on our natural resources.

According to the event's release, this performance, which was developed as part of Roy's bangaloREsidency-Expanded at WeltKunstZimmer, Düsseldorf in 2022, delves into the impact of over-exploitation and wastage of natural resources on the environment and how our choices as invaders, capitalists and consumers affect the planet.

"Human action is leading to an environmental crisis," she says, of the production that seeks to be an immersive experience questioning human beings' impact on nature. "We keep invading land, water, even space. We don't need it, but we keep doing it," says Roy, adding that the idea for this piece germinated in 2021 during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Cause and effect
Deepanwita Roy (below) delves into the impact of over-exploitation of natural resources. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

She was in her hometown, Siliguri, back then, she remembers. "The lockdown had forced us to be indoors, and we were trying to control this virus," she says. "It made me think about what we were doing to this world," says Roy, who has collaborated with dancers Purnendra Meshram and Pradeep Gupta to create this piece. "The three of us have all added our inputs into this project," she says. "That is how it came into being."

While the performance will debut at the Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore, she hopes to take this production to public spaces. "When I thought about this piece, I also wondered who the audience would be," she says, adding that it is important to acknowledge how we, as a group of human beings, can take care of this space. "I hope in the future we will be able to take this to a wider audience."

What's Going On Here? will be held on Saturday, July 29 at the Max Mueller Bhavan Bangalore at 6 pm. Entry is free.

'Voyeurism': 3 students, management booked

The Hindu Bureau
MANGALURU

Following criticism over the way the alleged voyeurism case in a paramedical college was handled, the Udupi police, on Tuesday, took up a *suo motu* case under different provisions of IPC and IT Act against three girl students and the college management.

Malpe Police Sub-Inspector G.B. Sushma filed the FIR in her station against Shabnaz, Alfia, and Aleema, and the institute under Sections 509 (acts intended to outrage modesty of woman), 204 (destruction of evidence), 175 (omission to produce document or electronic record) of IPC, and Section 66 (E) (capturing, publishing or transmitting the image of private area of any person) of IT Act.

Heavy rains have claimed 38 lives in Karnataka since June 1

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah holds videoconference with Deputy Commissioners and ZP CEOs on the rain situation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A bridge on the Malaprabha submerged after heavy rains in Khanapur. FILE PHOTO

Heavy rains in different parts of the State have left a trail of destruction and claimed 38 lives and caused injuries to 35 people since June 1.

Speaking to pressperson after holding a videoconference with deputy commissioners and chief executive officers of zilla panchayats on the rain situation, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed authorities to take precautionary measures to prevent loss of life. Compensation of ₹5 lakh had been given to the family of deceased persons, he said.

He said standing crops on 541.39 hectares had been affected due to waterlogging. As many as 57 houses had been completely damaged, 208 severely damaged, and 2,682 houses partially damaged. As many as 105 head of cattle had died in the rain fury, he said.

The rains had also affected public infrastructure, damaging 2,109 km of road, 189 bridges, 889 school buildings, and 269 anganwadis. Power infrastructure too had been badly hit, with 11,995 electricity poles, 894 transformers, and 215 km of power lines damaged, the Chief Minister said.

Pointing out that the monsoon, which had remained deficient in June had started gaining momentum in July, Mr. Siddaramaiah said since June 1 four districts had reported excess rainfall while 21 districts had received normal cumulative rainfall. Six districts had deficient rainfall.

More than 80% of the targeted area had been sown so far, he said and noted that he had instructed Agriculture Department officials to ensure that there was no shortage of seeds for sowing and fertilizer.

Pointing out that the Met department had indicated that there would be heavy rainfall for one more week, the Chief Minister said the number of districts and taluks facing rainfall deficiency was expected to further reduce.

Meanwhile, the rains have rapidly increased inflows into reservoirs, leading to a cumulative increase of storage by 227 tmcft in about a week.

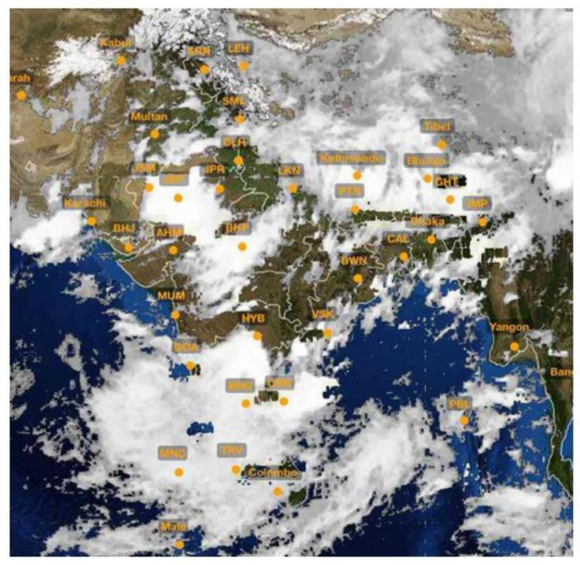
No forced loan recovery

The Chief Minister said he had directed the authorities to desist from forcibly recovering loans from farmers. He had also asked them to take police action against moneylenders charging exorbitant rates of interest.

Mr. Siddaramaiah said he had asked the deputy commisisoners and district in-charge Ministers to ensure that there was no scarcity of drinking water in the State. The government had so far set up two rehabilitation centres in which 50 persons were being taken care of, he said.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Thursday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Himachal Pradesh, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Sikkim, Odisha, Telangana, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, central Maharashtra, Vidarbha, Konkan & Goa and coastal Karnataka

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	36.5	27.0	Kozhikode	24	27.5	22.8
Ahmedabad	1	34.3	26.6	Kurnool	43	25.6	22.8
Aizawl	13	33.0	21.1	Lucknow	—	36.4	27.5
Allahabad	—	38.2	28.8	Madurai	0.1	37.6	27.0
Bengaluru	12.3	24.0	19.4	Mangaluru	81.5	24.7	22.4
Bhopal	—	—	25.0	Mumbai	86	28.2	25.0
Bhubaneswar	3.4	33.4	25.7	Mysuru	12	—	21.2
Chandigarh	40.6	33.2	24.5	New Delhi	37.1	31.3	23.8
Chennai	0.3	31.1	25.4	Patna	—	37.0	28.4
Coimbatore	—	28.2	22.0	Port Blair	61	30.8	23.8
Dehradun	70.6	28.0	22.4	Puducherry	—	34.1	25.4
Gangtok	27	21.2	17.6	Pune	11.4	26.1	22.3
Goa	49	26.2	23.0	Raipur	—	35.1	27.3
Guwahati	—	35.0	26.0	Ranchi	2	28.6	23.0
Hubballi	—	25.0	23.0	Shillong	5	25.5	17.7
Hyderabad	12	25.4	22.2	Shimla	18	—	16.8
Imphal	2	32.6	22.3	Srinagar	—	32.1	20.2
Jaipur	—	33.8	27.4	Thiruvananthapuram	3	31.4	23.4
Kochi	9	29.0	23.6	Tiruchi	—	35.1	27.0
Kohima	36	23.4	18.6	Vijayawada	81	28.1	24.6
Kolkata	13	31.6	26.4	Visakhapatnam	75	31.5	25.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	..—	4	.69	48	57	.....
Bengaluru	.23	..43	.49	.....—	92	.....
Chennai	.10	..25	109	49	46	.....
Delhi	...4	..17	.83	75	...166	.....
Hyderabad	.11	6	.40	76	77	.....
Kolkata	...5	..18	.17	14	37	.....
Lucknow	...5	..22	.35	75	...122	.....
Mumbai	..—	..26	103	28	26	.....
Pune	133	222	109	35	31	.....
Visakhapatnam	.14	..40	.58	30	38	.....

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Chengalpattu, Tamil Nadu recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 381 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Aizawl, Mizoram recorded a healthy AQI score of 12

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

From Page One

AI-based cameras deployed on expressway

He instructed Deputy Commissioner of Police (Traffic and Crime) Jahnavi to start distributing pamphlets and making announcements on not only adhering to speed limits, but also follow lane discipline. The motorists should also be warned against drunken driving and driving in the wrong direction on the expressway, he said.

Mr. Alok Kumar said he had identified at least 20 to 25 places on the 118.6-km-long expressway that are prone either prone to accidents or were posing a problem for the villagers on account of absence of foot overbridge and other facilities.

A lot of work is incomplete as the expressway had been inaugurated before the work was completed. The National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) has invited tenders for crash barriers at sharp curves and foot over bridges. Besides, work will also have to be taken up at the entry and exit points on the expressway. "But, it will all take time", he said.

Mr. Alok Kumar said he found KSRTC buses and trucks among the major violators of lane discipline on the expressway.

Hence, he has directed the City Police Commissioner Ramesh B. to discuss with the KSRTC Divisional Controller on holding a counselling session for the drivers and staff.

Similarly, a counselling session should also be held for truck drivers in co-ordination with APMC authorities, he said.

Ravi Pujari complains to HC that he is being tried in cases not part of his extradition order

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka has ordered issue of notice to the Central and State governments on a petition filed by gangster Ravi Pujari, who has questioned the legality of the conduct of investigation and trial in criminal cases that are not mentioned in the order of his extradition passed by a court in Sengal, a West African country, way back in 2020. Justice Krishna S. Dixit, before whom the petition came up for hearing on Tuesday, adjourned further hearing while asking the governments to submit their responses to the petition.

Complaining that he was interrogated and chargesheets were filed against him in criminal cases other than the ones mentioned in the extradition order, it has been contended in the petition that investigation and trial in cases other than those mentioned in the extradition order are contrary to the Section 21 of the Extradition Act, 1961. Pointing out that he had around 107 criminal cases pending against him, it has been complained in the petition that there is no progress in the cases pending against him in Maharashtra. He also sought a direction to the authorities to complete investigation in all the cases mentioned in the extradition order.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

Tender Notice No.18/2023 Dated: 21.07.2023

Description in brief: Supply of industrial grade operator VDU of sizes 55" Full HD, HDMI/DVI connectivity, in built speaker etc as per attached detailed technical specification.
(Tender No.: L8236079) (Qty: 26 Nos)

Tender Notice No.19/2023 Dated: 21.07.2023

Description in brief: Supply of fan less industrial grade embedded PC (Similar to moxa v2406 or better) with all accessories such as key board, mouse, Antivirus etc of industrial grade as per RDSO TAN No. STS/TAN/3007 Version 1.0 or latest) Material to be supplied as per attached detailed technical specification in Annexure A/B.
(Tender No.: L8236076) (Qty: 34 Nos)

Last date for submission of bids for both the tenders:
Up to 10:30 hrs. of 14.08.2023
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Materials Manager
Bengaluru
PUB/261/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the General Public that my client **D.M.Ram,** S/o Late D.H.Maruthi, aged about 62 years, residing at No.3791, 13th Cross, Banashanakari 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560 070, Aadhaar No. 5925 4198 4354 has recently lost the Original Sale Deed Dated: 10.04.2006, vide Document No.BDA-1-00195/2006-07, Book-I, stored in C.D.No.BDAD107, registered on 12.04.2006, in the office of the Addl Sub Registrar, BDA, Bangalore which is executed by The Bangalore Development Authority in favour of his father Late D.H.Maruthi, while travelling at Banashankari, Bangalore and my client has lodged a complaint on 25.07.2023 before Banashankari Police, Bangalore.

If anyone finding the above original title deed is requested to hand over the same to the undersigned within **seven (7) days** from hereof and my client will assure of appropriate reward to such person:

M.R.REVANNA, Advocate
No.264, 1st Floor, Behind Ganesh Temple
Begur Road, Bommanahalli
Bangalore-560068. Ph:99806 28324

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. BE-29-2023-24-0T-10,11,12,13

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following works:

OT	Description of Works	Approx. Value
10	Construction of track machine siding for a length of 420m at 6 major stations in Bengaluru division (KSR Bengaluru, Whitefield, Kengeri, Yesvantpur, Yelahanka and Bangarpet) & Construction of track machine siding for a length of 420m at 15 minor stations in Bengaluru division (Nelamangala, Thondebhavi, Sri Sathya Sai Prashanthi Nilayam, Rangepalli, Malur, Somanayakkanpatti, Shravanabelagola, Yediyuru, Bidadi, Chikkaballapur, Srinivasapur, Kolar, Dodbele, Chikka Banavara & Mulanur) -Electrical works.	Rs. 89,20,266/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 hrs. of 18.08.2023

11	Airconditioning of rest rooms in Hindupur, Dharmapuri & Kolar and other improvement works at running rooms over Bengaluru Division and rewiring of service buildings on age cum condition basis over Bengaluru Division.	Rs. 94,43,023/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 hrs. of 10.08.2023

12	Provision of solar pumps over Bengaluru division in stations identified by NGT and electrical arrangement for proposed provision of coach watering facilities at Kengeri Station.	Rs. 82,38,408/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 hrs. of 16.08.2023

13	Replacement of over aged interlocking of Kelamangalam, Periyanagathunai, Rayakottai, Marandahalli, Palakkodu, Toppur and Karuvalli stations with E.I -Electrical Arrangements and left over works between Hindupur-Penukonda stations in Yelahanka-Penukonda doubling project - Electrical works.	Rs. 79,60,480/-

Last date for submission of bids:
Up to 11:00 hrs. of 18.08.2023

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Senior Divisional Electrical Engineer
Bengaluru
PUB/259/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24
S.W.Railways SWRRLY SWRRLY

CENTRAL RAILWAY
SOLAPUR DIVISION
TENDER NOTICE

Divisional Railway Manager (Works), Central Railway, Solapur on behalf of President of India, invites e-tender from the reputed firms / contractor for the following works: **Tender Notice No.:** 16-2023-GSU **Name of Work:** Proposal of Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) in Gati Shakti unit of Solapur Division (Kopergaon, Belapur, Ahmednagar, Daund, Jeur, Kurduwadi etc.). **Approximate Cost of the Work:** Rs. 1,72,92,000/- **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,36,500/- **Completion Period of the Work:** 24 Months **Maintenance Period:** NIL **Tender Notice No.:** 17-2023-GSU **Name of Work:** Proposal of Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) in Gati Shakti unit of Solapur Division for Station Pandharpur (PVR), Osmanabad (UMD), Latur (LUR) etc. **Approximate Cost of the Work:** Rs. 87,36,000/- **Earnest Money:** Rs. 1,74,700/- **Completion Period of the Work:** 24 Months **Maintenance Period:** NIL **Tender Notice No.:** 18-2023-GSU **Name of Work:** Proposal of Project Supervision Services Agency (PSSA) in Gati Shakti unit of Solapur Division for Solapur (SUR), Dudhani (DUD), Shahbad (SDB), Wadi (WD), Gangapur (GUR) & Kalburgi (KLBG) Stations. **Approximate Cost of the Work:** Rs. 1,86,72,000/- **Earnest Money:** Rs. 2,43,400/- **Completion Period of the Work:** 24 Months **Maintenance Period:** NIL **Last Date & Time of uploading quoted tender on www.ireps.gov.in website:** 14.08.2023 up to 15:00 Hrs. **Date & Time of Opening of Tender on www.ireps.gov.in:** 14.08.2023 at 15:30 Hrs. The prospective Tenders are advised to revisit the website frequently before the date of closing of tender to note any changes / corrigenda issued for this tender. Website: **www.ireps.gov.in**

DRM (Works), Solapur

Download UTS APP for Tickets Mol. 077

IN THE HIGH COURT OF THE XXV ADDL. CITY CIVIL & SESSIONS JUDGE AT BENGALURU
(CCH-23)
Execution No. 4128/2019

BETWEEN
Official liquidator of
M/s. Spun Silk India Ltd., (In Liqn),
Attached to High Court of Karnataka,
Corporate Bhavan, No. 26-27, 12th Floor, Raheja Towers,
M.G. Road, BENGALURU-560 001 ***...Decree Holder***

AND

Sri. M.S.C. Pasha and others ***...Judgment Debtors***

CAUSE NOTICE TO THE JUDGMENT DEBTORS1, 3 AND 4 BY PAPER PUBLICATION UNDER ORDER V RULE 20 OF CPC

1. **Sri. M.S.C.Pasha S/o M.Syed Abbas**
No.23, Hutchins Road, 3rd Cross,
St. Thoms Town, Bangalore - 560 084
3. **Sri. B.K.Tandon S/o Dawlatram Tandon**
No.872/D, HAL 3rd Stage, Indiranagar,
Bangalore - 560 038
4. **Sri. H.S. Nagabhushana Rao**
S/o Late Varanthur Srikanta Ganapathi,
161, Mathru Krupa, Sathya Narayan Layout,
West of Chord Road, Bangalore.
Alternative address:
No.615/8, 2nd Cross, Raghavendra Colony,
Bilekahalli, Bangalore -560 076.

WHEREAS, the above named Decree Holder has instituted the above Execution Petition against the above Judgment Debtors for recovery of Rs.3,68,07,422/- as per the order dated 15.01.2009 made in Company Application No.438/2005, They are hereby summoned/cause notice to appear before this Hon'ble court either in person or through the pleader on 14.08.2023 at 11.00 AM XXV ADDL City & Session Judge at Bangalore (CCH-23) defend the above case failing which the matter will be disposed of ex-parte.

Issue under my hand and the Seal of this Court the 13th day of July 2023

By order of the Court
Sd/-
ASSISTANT REGISTRAR
City Civil Court,
Bangalore

Advocate for Decree Holder
Sri. Murali, N, Advocate,
NO.24, Raghavendra Mansion,
1st Main Road, Seshadripuram,
Bangalore -560020. M.No.9448834909

EDUCATION HUB — A Business Initiative

15th Anniversary of University Status

The 15th anniversary marks the Christ Institution as a University. During this period the Institution has grown meaningfully and innovatively, influencing the larger higher education ecosystem in India, the state of Karnataka, and the city of Bangalore. On this occasion, they remembered with deep sense of gratitude the CMI Congregation, all the Reverend Fathers who have led and built the Institution with tremendous vision, passion, dedication, and sacrifice, Reverend Fathers in the CMI congregation who have supported and contributed to the foundation and the growth of the Institution. They thanked all teaching and non-teaching staff who have contributed to the development of the Institution. Also remain grateful to the many members of the public and the civil servants who have believed in the selfless contribution of the University and have supported it through its many challenges and have guided it. The parents who have trusted them with their wards also need to be remembered on this occasion and the alumni/ae who are proud of the Institution and act as its ambassadors wherever they go. A university is an intergenerational generosity. As custodians of this unique and meaning Institution, they have a responsibility to build it further for the future generations. To that vision of the University they rededicate themselves on this 15th anniversary of their Institution as a University.

9th Asia-Pacific Regional Conference on Service learning at CHRIST, Central Campus, Bangalore

The event is set an impact among students and faculty members to take up community engagement activities to facilitate learning by doing and learning through participatory research. The conference focussed and highlighted the sub theme - "Service-Learning: Touching Lives and Transforming Communities through Innovative Pedagogy, Research and Partnerships". Regular interventions through conferences, seminars and symposiums help strengthen the scope and implication of Service-Learning in the communities thereby advancing social entrepreneurship. The Centre for Service Learning at the University organised this bi-annual event this year by hosting paper presentations from the Asia-Pacific regions, Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, India, Hong Kong, Korea, Vietnam, and The United States of America. The Keynote address was delivered by Dr. Rajesh Tandon, the founding director of PRIA and the co-chair of UNESCO who spoke about mutual learning, respectful solidarity, and social inclusion. The Presidential address was delivered by the Vice Chancellor of the University, Rev Fr. Dr Jose C C who emphasised on community engagement. Other dignitaries of the event were, Dr Andrew Furco from University of Minnesota, Dr Sumit Narula, Amity University, Gwalior, Dr Kshitij Urs, Executive Director, IBBN, National Law School of India University, Mr Anshu Gupta, Founder Director of Goonj and Gram Swabhimaan.

Remarkable Feat by Presidency University Engineering Freshmen

The School of Computer Science and Engineering & Information Science has extended its proficiency by training its first-year Students in Java Programming Language from the Global Coding Platform and more than nine thousand certificates were earned by them after undergoing a meticulously designed assessment at different levels of competency skills in a short period. The Java programming efficiency of the first-year students is assessed on the basis of the solutions provided by the students for the business problem statements generated by the coding platform. The key officials of Presidency University congratulated Dr Sameeruddin Khan -Dean of School of CSE & IS, Dr. Kalaiarasan- Associate Dean of SoCSE & IS, Dr. Saira Banu Atham -HoD of SoCSE & IS and all the otherfaculties of SoCSE& IS fortheir consistent and tenacious effort in motivating and encouraging the students which led to more than nine thousand certifications obtained by them in a short span of time. This effort put by the School of Computer Science and Engineering & Information Science of Presidency University has not only created a pool of professionally certified graduates that are ready to serve the industry using their programming skills, but also made them capable of understanding the problems prevailing in the society and providing best solutions to it using the skills learned.

13th Graduation day of Rajarajeshwari Medical college and hospital

Recently Rajajeshwari Medical College and Hospital conducted its 13th Graduation day at ACS Convention Center. U.G, P.G & Super specialty 436 students got their graduation certificates. Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand addressed the gathering by his inspirational speech, congratulated and awarded medals to the graduates. Founder Chancellor Dr. A.C Shanmugam, President Sri A.C.S Arun Kumar, Smt.S.Lalithalakshmi, Managing Trustee, Moogambigai Charitable & educational Trust, Dr. S.Vijayanand, Executive Director, Sri C.N.Seetharam, Chief Executive Director, Dean Dr. Sathya Murthy, Principal Dr.Naveen and entire doctor's team of the hospital and all the staff graced the function. On the occasion of 75th Amrutha Mohotsava inspired by 'Har Ghar ka Tiranaga' campaign on 25th of July 2023 at 10.00am students and staff from Rajarajeshwari Group of Institutions and many others gathered at hospital campus, holding the nation flag at and showed their patriotism. During this event Hon'ble Governor of Jharkhand , His Excellency, Sri. C.P. Radhakrishnan hoisted the National flag.

16th Annual day celebrated at Seshadripuram Institute of Commerce and Management

Nadoja Dr. Wooday P Krishna presided over the 16th Annual day function by inviting eminent personalities like Sri S Gurunatha Reddy , Senior manager Advertisement The Hindu and Girish C, Coach Indian Net Ball Team. The dignitaries inaugurated the programme and addressed students stay focused on to their uphill task of achieving their dreams instead wasting their valuable time behind Social media. Sri Girish also cherished his nostalgic moments of college life at SICM and also motivated students to inculcate sports into their life. During the events many achievers of the college & staff were also honoured. Adorable cultural performances were presented by students during the celebration.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

The complaints pending with the CIC as of April 1

19,233 The Union Minister of State for Personnel also informed Parliament that 29,213 cases were pending with the Central Information Commission in 2021-22. PTI

Rise in share of orphans, abandoned children since 2020

25 in percentage. The number of such children, which was 4,521 in 2020-21 and 5,106 in 2021-22, rose to 5,663 in 2022-23, according to the Ministry of Women and Child Development (WCD). PTI

Cured patients still housed in mental hospitals across India

2,000 The National Human Rights Commission of India chairperson addressed the issue during a conference on mental health held at Vigyan Bhawan. PTI

Japan's steepest population decline recorded on July 26

0.65 in percentage. The population of Japanese nationals fell by about 8,00,000 people to 122.4 million in 2022 from the previous year, according to government data. AP

The number of terrorist attacks in West Africa in 2023

1,800 Nearly 4,600 deaths have been recorded in West Africa in the first six months of 2023. AP

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

The changing contours of Delhi

An economic geography based assessment framework looking at Delhi can facilitate better planning, more participation from marginalised groups as well as direct investment decisions. This can be emulated in mega city-regions, in India and elsewhere in the Global South

FULL CONTEXT

Madhav Pai
Rejeet Mathews

India's decisions on economic development, growth, and related planetary boundary challenges have become all the more significant as it was declared the most populous country in the world, overtaking China just a few months ago. Additionally, India's capital city Delhi is en route to becoming the world's most populous urban agglomeration overtaking Tokyo by 2028. The nation's 1.4 billion citizens, who are increasingly concentrated in cities, and have a young median age of 28.2 , need appropriate economic development planning that is both equitable and sustainable.

The layout of Delhi-NCR

The engines of India's growth are the economies of its mega city-regions. While national and State-level policies are vital to the country's economic development, they are not enough to meet the needs of such city-regions. A case in point is the Delhi National Capital Region (Delhi-NCR), whose extended urban agglomeration straddles several State and city jurisdictions, including Faridabad, Ghaziabad, Gurugram, and Noida. The expansion of the agglomeration has been greatly aided due to it being the national capital as well as various infrastructure investments such as the metro rail networks extending from the core to the periphery, and the proactive investments made by the contiguous States. However, the peripheral contiguous cities are categorised separately in the economic and population Censuses. Being rapidly urbanising suburbs, they lag behind the core of the Delhi National Capital Territory (Delhi-NCT) in terms of infrastructure. (see infographic)

Economic geography of Delhi-NCR

Delhi-NCR has the highest concentration of jobs and people in the country, and generated a GDP of $370 billion in 2015. Its challenges include increasing land and infrastructure costs, growing income inequality, poor air quality, land and water pollution, the lack of natural resources, and institutional coordination barriers. In our recently released report, the 'Morphology of Delhi National Capital Region's Economic Geography and its Implications for Planning', a study of sector-wise evolution of jobs in Delhi-NCR from liberalisation in 1991 up to 2013-14 shows that the core-periphery spatial system is in transition. The core has decentralised, as is evident from rapid urbanisation, infrastructure development, and the peripheralisation of jobs and migrants. However, this has not been accompanied by a shift to a high-wage, knowledge-based economy in the core area. Informal work persists, unemployment rates have increased, and women's participation in the workforce remains low. The region's per capita income has tripled, and consumption levels have risen, and the peripheries attract investment from their respective State governments. Gurugram and Gautam Buddha Nagar for example are the districts with the highest per capita income in Haryana and U.P. respectively.

Delhi NCR presents a case of complementarity between its subregions, because the jobs that moved out from the 'core' were captured by the periphery and the 'rest of the region' without getting expelled from the overall region. The sectors that grew in terms of industrial output generated more employment than those that grew in technical and energy efficiency. Traditional sectors such as trade, textiles and leather still dominate, but despite increasing their employment share, their share to the region's GDP has declined. On the whole, employment-intensive growth in the secondary, tertiary sectors has been low. Decentralisation policies coupled with land-use and building control restrictions, pollution control norms, and inefficient land acquisition and disposal policies, have contributed to the fragmented development driven by speculation beyond the boundaries of Delhi.

Lessons for the Global South

An economic geography approach can effectively guide the framing of more effective policies, as it provides an interdisciplinary understanding of where and why economic activity occurs, its associated impact on people and that no two places are alike. In the case of Delhi-NCR, a region-specific economic development corporation could be created to leverage existing interstate frameworks and create place-specific development strategies in a continuously updated process. This corporation could also foster healthy competition between participating cities and States to attract investment. At the same time, a multi-stakeholder platform can be built to bring together the government, private sector, industrial bodies, academia, and civil society representatives, to address development needs. An economic development corporation can also be set up for the revitalisation of the Delhi-NCT core, as cities around the world have done to leverage their full potential.

In Delhi-NCR, as elsewhere, spatio-economic assessments can help target infrastructure investments and foreign direct investments to economically dynamic locations, to ensure better returns and job growth. Strategies, such as safe and accessible work and travel, with child and elder care facilities, can be deployed to enable women to participate in the economy. Spatio-economic assessments can also help improve access to education, healthcare, basic services, and jobs for marginalised groups.

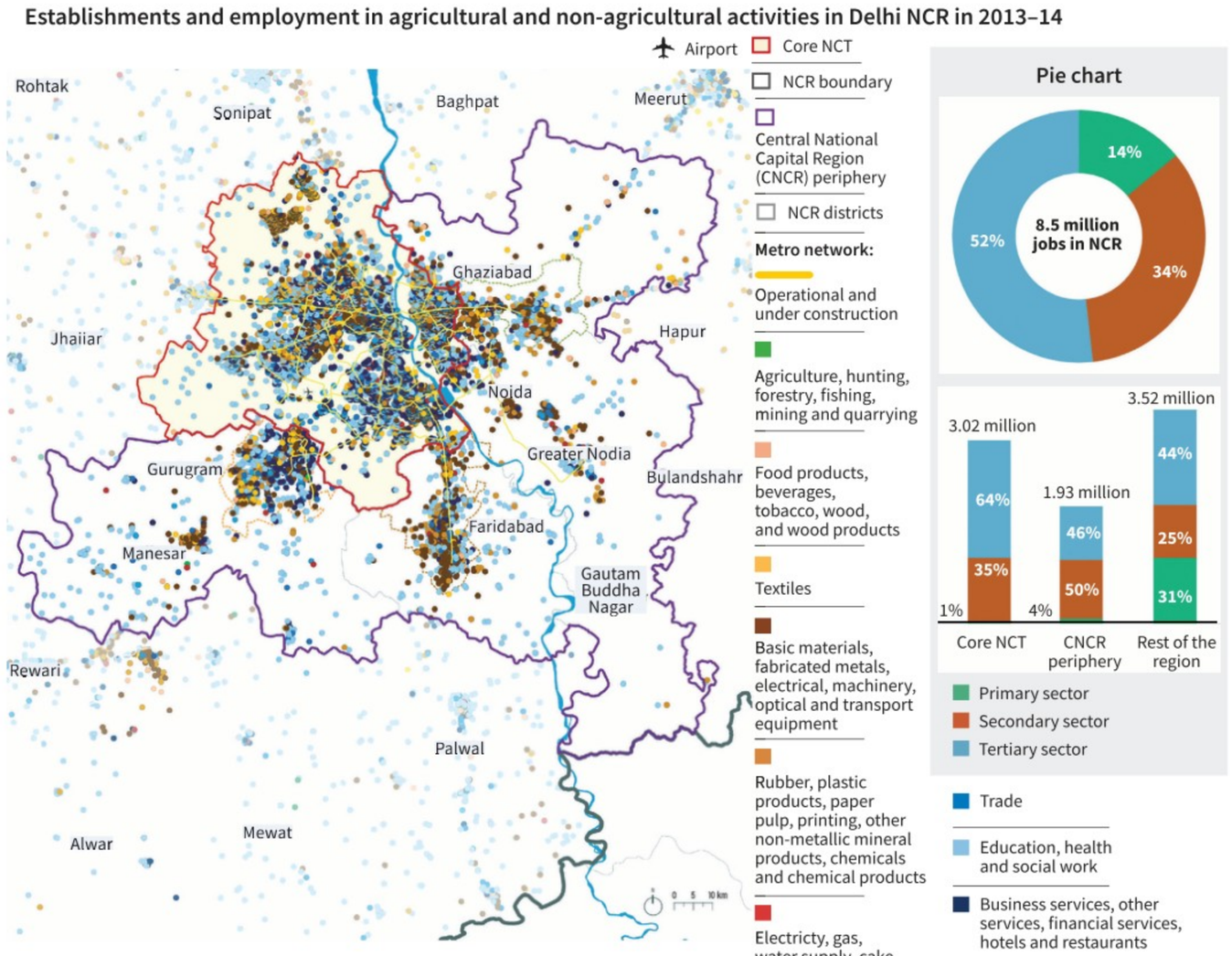
An economic geography-based assessment framework can facilitate better planning and investment decisions in mega city-regions, not just in India but also elsewhere in the Global South. It can inform planning processes at the regional and local levels, guide investment decisions, factor in environmental impacts, and facilitate the inclusion of marginalised groups in the economy. Thus, it can help ensure well-planned, and inclusive economic growth, and support a higher quality of life while also valuing planetary resources.

Madhav Pai is CEO and Rejeet Mathews is Director, Integrated Urban Development at WRI India. Views are personal.

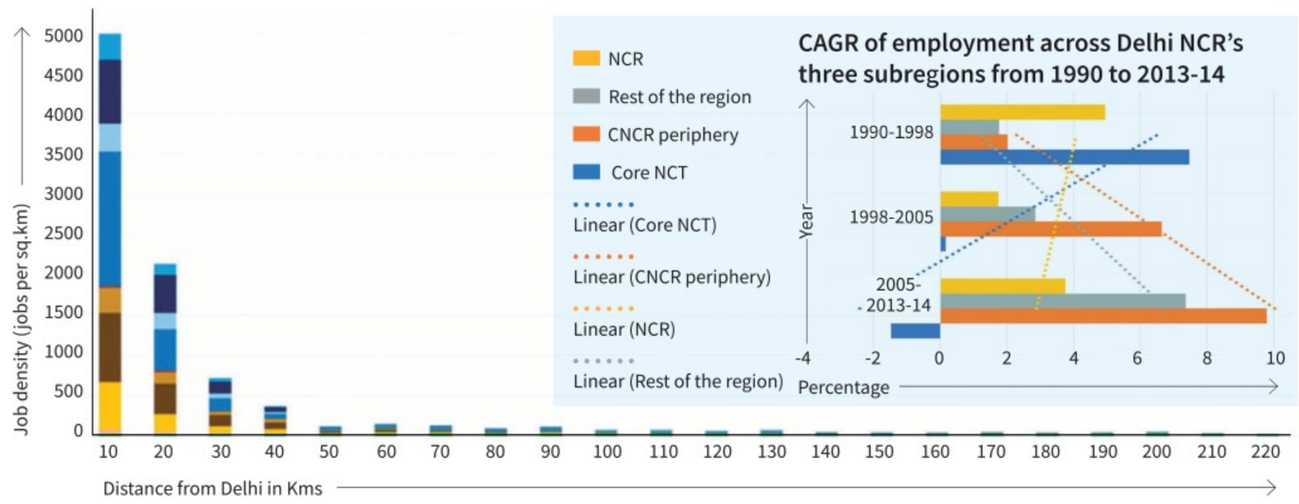
An economic geography assessment of Delhi-NCR

A spatial mapping of jobs in terms of distance shows that economic activity peaked within a 10 km radius of Delhi-NCT, and tapered off completely by 40 km

Establishments and employment in agricultural and non-agricultural activities in Delhi NCR in 2013–14



The density of jobs moving outward from the centre of Delhi NCT



Source: Authors' analysis using data from the Central Statistics Office and the Reserve Bank of India (2019)

THE GIST

The engines of India's growth are the economies of mega city-regions. While national and State level policies are vital to the country's economic development, they are not enough to meet the needs of such city-regions.

Delhi-NCR's challenges include increasing land and infrastructure costs, growing income inequality, poor air quality, land and water pollution, the lack of natural resources, and institutional coordination barriers.

In Delhi-NCR, as elsewhere, spatio-economic assessments can help target infrastructure investments and foreign direct investments to economically dynamic locations, to ensure better returns and job growth.

Uniting the House

The PM must use Parliament as a forum to reassure the people of Manipur

Both the Opposition led by the Congress and the ruling Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) say they want a parliamentary debate on Manipur, but they are unable to agree on a mechanism to do it. The abhorrent violence, including repeated incidents of sexual violence against tribal women in the State, should have brought the government and the Opposition together; instead, they are unable to even debate the issue. The Opposition has insisted that any discussion must begin with a statement by Prime Minister Narendra Modi, who would not commit to that. Home Minister Amit Shah said the government was willing to discuss the issue and sought the cooperation of the Opposition, which saw the outreach as an attempt to shield Mr. Modi. The Opposition has now moved a no-confidence motion against the government as a way of forcing Mr. Modi to speak on the issue. Considering how he has responded until now, that might be a bit too optimistic. The discussion on the no-confidence motion in the Lok Sabha is likely to be a continuation of the obfuscation of the issue by the BJP and the persistent demand by the Opposition. Meanwhile, in the Rajya Sabha, the Opposition continues to demand a discussion followed by a statement by the Prime Minister.

The demand for a comprehensive statement by the Prime Minister is legitimate, but the Opposition must understand that it serves no purpose if the outcome is no discussion. It must seize whatever opportunity it gets for a discussion in Parliament, and take the protest to public places outside. The BJP's response to the horror in Manipur has been to equate it with crimes in Congress-ruled States, which is difficult to sustain. For moral and strategic reasons, the turmoil in Manipur is a threat to the country's security, integrity, and social harmony; it is a threat that calls for national unity. It is a sad moment in Indian democracy that its politics remains partisan even in the face of such human suffering, ethnic violence and the breakdown of law and order in a sensitive border State. Congress President Mallikarjun Kharge has written to Mr. Shah saying that the government cannot be seeking the Opposition's cooperation while the Prime Minister is likening it to extremist outfits. Labelling critics as anti-national or unpatriotic may be politically convenient, but this predictable response in the BJP toolkit is turning out to be an impediment to national unity. It is time Mr. Modi called for healing in Manipur, reassured the scared victims of the State and set an example by holding the perpetrators accountable. And there is no better place than Parliament to make it all clear to the country and the world.

Resilient, but just

Lopsided growth, that bypasses poor nations, risks affecting global economy

The International Monetary Fund's latest update to its world economic outlook posits a global economy showing signs of having weathered its most recent challenges, including the bank collapses in the U.S. and Switzerland, and likely poised to expand by 3% in 2023. But the Fund's marginal 20 basis points upgrade to its April projections, which were released in the wake of the banking failures, and concerns at the time about the then yet-to-be-resolved U.S. debt ceiling standoff, does little to provide reassurance that the world economy is out of the woods. As the IMF's chief economist Pierre-Olivier Gourinchas cautioned on Tuesday, "many challenges still cloud the horizon... while some adverse risks have moderated, the balance remains tilted to the downside". That risks abound, both known and unsighted, would be an understatement. For starters, the two largest economies, the United States and China, have slowed down appreciably and face increased uncertainty amid global and domestic headwinds. In the U.S., the surpluses from pandemic-era cash transfers, made to help families tide over the distress wrought by COVID-19 and the cost-of-living crisis in its aftermath, have all but depleted. China's post-reopening rebound has begun to fizzle out, with the economy floundering on the shoals of a contraction in the key real estate sector, combined with weakening consumption and slumping overseas demand for its exports.

The euro area, another key engine of the global economy, is still reeling from the Ukraine-war induced spike in gas prices with momentum decelerating especially in the largest regional economies of Germany and France. Eurozone business output fell at the fastest rate for eight months in July, S&P Global's latest HCOB flash PMI survey showed this week. Worse, deteriorating forward-looking indicators flag the likelihood of the region's downturn deepening in coming months. And with inflation, particularly core inflation, remaining well above central banks' targets, policymakers may be left with little option but to stay the course on inflation-taming but demand-retarding monetary tightening. Russia's termination of the Black Sea grain deal could also push up grain prices by as much as 15%, Mr. Gourinchas warned, affecting some low-income economies in Africa. The IMF economist also pointed to the heightened debt vulnerabilities among many frontier economies and stressed the urgent need for a concerted global debt resolution initiative to help highly indebted countries from sliding into debt distress. Ultimately, the world's economic leaders must realise that lopsided growth, that bypasses the vulnerable nations, risks having the weakest links weighing down the larger global economic edifice in an interconnected world.

Shedding more light on the debt dilemma

M. Govinda Rao

is a former Member of the Fourteenth Finance Commission. He is currently Chief Economic Adviser, Brickwork Ratings

The elevated levels of India's fiscal deficit and public debt have been a matter of concern for a long time in India. Even before the COVID-19 pandemic, debt levels were among the highest in the developing world and emerging market economies. The pandemic pushed the envelope further and relative to GDP, the fiscal deficit in 2020-21 increased to 13.3% and the aggregate public debt to 89.6%. As the economy recovered after the pandemic, the deficit and debt ratios have receded to 8.9% and 85.7%, respectively.

The projections show that even without any serious disruptions to the economy, the debt level is unlikely to return to the pre-pandemic trajectory in the medium term. With elections to a number of States scheduled in 2023 and with the general election for 2024, the electoral budget cycle could push the debt ratio further. And, there can be serious questions about its sustainability unless targeted interventions are made to reduce the debt burden, which may not be politically easy with elections on the horizon.

Financial repression

The debt-dynamics equation states that when there is no primary deficit (fiscal deficit in the year excluding the past legacy of interest payments), if the growth rate of GDP exceeds the effective interest rate paid on government bonds, the overall debt will decline. However, what is missed in these discussions are the distortions caused by financial repression to keep the interest rates on government borrowing low to reduce the cost. The statutory liquidity ratio (SLR) stipulated by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI) requires the banking system to hold 18% of their demand and time liabilities in government securities. Besides, the RBI intervenes in the market through open market operations around the time when government borrowing is taken up to keep the interest rates on government borrowing repressed. When the interest rate on government debt is lower than the growth of GDP, the debt may decline but the financial market gets distorted.

Thus, even when the sustainability of debt may not be threatened in the medium term, the costs of carrying high deficits and debt to the economy are heavy. First, on average, interest payments constitute over 5% of GDP and 25% of the revenue receipts, this is more than the government expenditure on education and health care put together. Large interest payments crowd out the much-needed expenditures on physical infrastructure and human development and emerging priorities to make the green transition. The issue is of concern in Punjab, Kerala, Rajasthan, and West Bengal. In Punjab, the Debt to GSDP ratio is 48.9%, in West Bengal, 37.6%, Rajasthan 35.4%, and in Kerala close to 33%.

'Today's borrowing is taxing tomorrow' and the burden of large deficits and debt will have to be borne by the next generation

Second, high levels of debt make it difficult to calibrate counter-cyclical fiscal policy and constrain the ability of the government to respond to shocks.

Third, the debt market in India is largely captive with mainly the commercial banks and insurance companies participating in it to meet SLR requirements. With a cash reserve ratio (CRR) of 4.5% and SLR of 18% of net demand and time liabilities, and 40% of the credit by the commercial banks earmarked for the priority sector, the resources available for lending to the manufacturing sector gets squeezed, driving up the cost of borrowing of the sector. Furthermore, the rating agencies keep the sovereign rating low when deficits and debt are higher, and this increases the cost of external commercial borrowing. Finally, 'today's borrowing is taxing tomorrow' and the burden of large deficits and debt will have to be borne by the next generation.

On the debt burden

It is clear that in the present fiscal environment, even achieving a consolidated debt-to-GDP ratio of 58.2 recommended by the 14th Finance Commission for 2019-20 would be unfeasible in the medium term. The Finance Commission had recommended that the Union government bring down its deficit relative to GDP from 43.6% in 2015-16 to 36.3%, and the States maintain their deficit at about 22%. Even before the pandemic, the aggregate public debt had slipped to 74.3% in 2019-20, and the pandemic pushed it to 89.7% in 2020-21. With the nominal GDP recovering to grow at 18.5% in 2021-22 after the pandemic, the debt ratio declined only marginally to 85.7%. This implies that every individual in the country bears a debt burden of ₹1,64,000. With the high primary deficit of 3.7% of GDP in 2022-23 and budgeted at over 3% in 2023-24, we will have to contend with elevated debt levels in the medium term.

The issue is of critical importance; therefore, the fast pacing of fiscal consolidation is imperative. Fortunately, after six years, Goods and Services Tax (GST) has stabilised and has shown high growth potential. As the technology platform has stabilised, it is expected to maintain high buoyancy in the medium term. The technology has helped to improve tax administration and improved compliance. With the cross-matching of GST returns with income-tax returns, income-tax compliance too is expected to improve. In the medium term, the aggregate tax-GDP ratio is likely to increase by 1.5 percentage to 2 percentage points.

In terms of policy interventions, this is the time to rethink the role of the state and vacate activities that should really belong to the market rather than competing with it. At the central level, even after much talk about disinvestment, progress has been slow. Rather than dispensing with activities such as telecom to the private sector, the government continues to pour money into Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited. Equally disturbing are the employment *melas* to fill so-called vacant posts which have been found to be redundant. At the State level, it is important to guard against the return to the old pension scheme and indulge in large-scale giveaways for electoral reasons. Of course, redistribution is a legitimate government activity, and that is best done through cash transfers rather than subsidising commodities and services. Giving subsidies alters relative prices, resulting in unintended resource distortions. Equally important is the need to impose hard budget constraints by enforcing Fiscal Responsibility and Budget Management rules in allowing States to borrow. Macroeconomic stabilisation is predominantly a Union government responsibility. Therefore, the Union government should follow the rules it makes, and enforce the rules on the States effectively.

The views expressed are personal

The SCO is a success story that can get better

Ma Jia

is Chargé d'Affaires a.i. of the Embassy of China in India

On July 4, 2023, India successfully hosted the 23rd Meeting of the Council of Heads of State of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO). The world witnessed another "SCO moment". Leaders of the SCO member-states signed the New Delhi Declaration, and issued the statements on countering radicalisation and exploring cooperation in digital transformation. The summit granted Iran full SCO membership, signed the memorandum of obligations of Belarus to join the SCO as a member-state, and adopted the SCO's economic development strategy for the period until 2030. These significant outcomes have demonstrated the vitality of the "SCO family".

A changing world

Our world, our times and history are changing in ways like never before. The world is grappling with geopolitical tensions, an economic slowdown, energy crises, food shortage and climate change. These challenges require the joint response of all countries. The major risks to world peace and development are power politics, economic coercion, technology decoupling and ideological contest. The central questions revolve around unity or split; peace or conflict; cooperation or confrontation. The international community must answer them.

Over the years, the SCO has been committed to becoming a community with a shared future for mankind, firmly supporting each other in upholding their core interests, and synergising their national development strategies and regional cooperation initiatives. Member-states have carried forward the spirit of good neighbourliness and friendship, and built partnerships featuring dialogue instead of confrontation, and cooperation instead of alliance. The SCO has been a guardian of and contributor to regional peace, stability and prosperity. These achievements manifest the common aspirations of all countries so that there is peace, development and win-win cooperation. The SCO's leading and exemplary role can help strengthen unity and cooperation, seize development opportunities, and address risks and challenges. Going forward in a new era, the SCO member-states should strengthen strategic communication, deepen practical cooperation, and support each other's development and rejuvenation. As we build a better homeland together, more certainty and positive energy will be brought to the world.

Shanghai Cooperation Organization member-states should strengthen strategic communication, deepen practical cooperation, and support each other's development

We should enhance solidarity and mutual trust for common security. There are some external elements that are orchestrating a new Cold War and bloc confrontation in our region. These developments must be addressed with high vigilance and firm rejection. SCO member-states need to upgrade security cooperation, and crack down in a decisive manner on terrorism, separatism and extremism, and transnational organised crimes. We need to pursue cooperation in digital, biological and outer space security, and facilitate political settlement when it comes to international and regional hot-spot issues.

We should embrace win-win cooperation to chart a path to shared prosperity. Protectionism, unilateral sanctions and decoupling undermine people's well-being all over the world. It is imperative for the SCO to generate stronger momentum for collaboration in trade, investment, technology, climate actions, infrastructure and people-to-people engagement. To contribute to high-quality and resilient economic growth of the region, there need to be collective efforts to scale up local currency settlement between SCO members, expand cooperation on sovereign digital currency, and promote the establishment of an SCO development bank.

Need for multilateralism

We should advocate multilateralism to shape our common destiny. The SCO needs more engagements with its observer states, dialogue partners and other regional and international organisations such as the United Nations, to uphold the UN-centered international system and the international order based on international law. Together, we are united in promoting world peace, driving global development and safeguarding the international order.

The SCO's success story is part of the broader global partnership of emerging economies and developing countries. As changes to the global landscape unfold, emerging economies and developing countries continue their collective rise with greater cohesion and global weight. We are increasingly acting as a progressive force for world fairness and justice. Over the next two months, South Africa and India will preside over the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) and G-20 summits, respectively. These will be significant moments to shape a multi-polar world order, promote inclusive global development, and improve international governance architecture.

China's commitment

China is committed to working with India, South Africa and other partners from the South to put into action the Global Security Initiative, Global Development Initiative and Global Civilization Initiative, to contribute to world peace, security and prosperity. We need to pursue common, comprehensive, cooperative and sustainable security, respect each country's independent choice of the path to development and social system, and abide by the purpose and principles of the UN Charter. The reasonable security interests of all countries deserve consideration. Dialogue and diplomacy offer the best hope to address international disputes by peaceful means. And, security challenges in conventional and non-conventional domains should be dealt with in a holistic manner.

We need to forge a united, equal, balanced and inclusive global development partnership, promote humanity's common values of peace, development, equity, justice, democracy and freedom, and get global governance to evolve in a fairer and more reasonable direction. Our voice should be loud and clear against hegemony, unilateralism, a Cold War mentality and bloc confrontation. And, illegal unilateral sanctions and long-arm jurisdiction measures must be rejected. In doing so, we will lead by example in safeguarding the development rights and legitimate interests of the developing world.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Bali meeting

If the meeting in Bali last year between the leaders of India and China included "substantial conversation", as suggested by the Indian and Chinese sides now (Page 1, July 26), it is not clear how and why the details of that all-important conversation were kept under wraps so far. With conflicting versions about the topics of discussion emerging, what really happened is ambiguous.

A. Venkatasubramanian,
Tiruchi, Tamil Nadu

Fisher arrests

The media can have the permanent news headline, "Sri Lankan Navy arrests Indian fishers, seizes boats", with the number of fishers and boats changed according to the day. Why did India not take up the issue with the Sri Lankan President during his visit to New Delhi? If fishermen from Tamil Nadu are 'really' crossing the International Maritime Boundary Line and entering the waters of Sri Lanka, can they not be warned or assisted with the help of technology? The Indian Institutes of Technology can be roped in.

A. Jainulabdeen,
Chennai

Gig workers

The approach of the writers in the article, "Drawn from gig workers' struggles, hewn in Rajasthan" (Editorial page, July 26), was one-sided. Though the nature of gig workers' jobs is unregulated and needs to be addressed, it may not be right to squarely blame employers. With the increase in population, job opportunities are shrinking and the day is not far off when unemployment may change the contours of society itself. It is only natural that no employer will be prepared to provide all securities to gig workers, as opposed to permanent workers, fearing legal consequences. If gig workers protest, substitutes are available almost immediately.

V. Lakshmanan,
Tirupur, Tamil Nadu

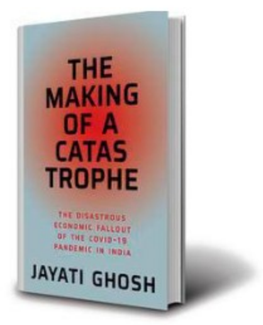
Portrait of B.R. Ambedkar

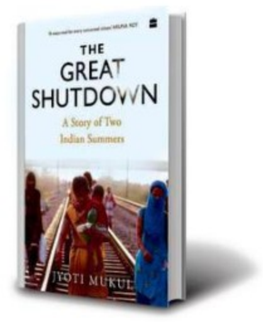
It is not clear why an issue is being made by the Madras High Court that the statue of B.R. Ambedkar should be removed and only the portraits of Mahatma Gandhi and Thiruvalluvar be displayed in courts in Tamil Nadu. The Chief Justice of the Madras High Court deserves a compliment for directing that status quo be maintained. Many years ago, the then Chief Justice of the Madras High Court asked some lawyers for their opinion on the unveiling of the statue of Ambedkar, the architect of the Constitution, on the High Court premises. It was put to him that the unveiling of the statue was long overdue. In fact, in a case where disciplinary action was taken against an employee of the State Bank of India for unveiling B.R. Ambedkar's portrait within the bank premises, in the course of arguments, it was brought to the notice of the court that no exception could be taken to installing such portraits. A Government of India circular dated September 8, 2006 was also cited in support of this. Therefore, putting up the portrait of Ambedkar should be treated as a closed issue.

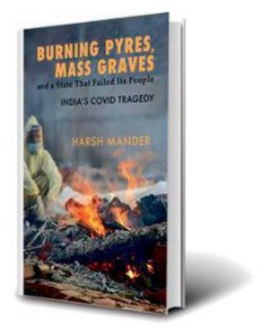
N.G.R. Prasad,
Chennai

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

BIBLIOGRAPHY







Total collapse: The cremation of people who died due to COVID-19 near the Hindon Canal in 2021. SUSHIL KUMAR VERMA

COVID-19 and the state: policy interventions during the pandemic

How will the rampage of destruction by the SARS-CoV-2 virus be remembered? Several writers look beyond mortality figures and explain the economic and social devastation, and why 'circles of kindness' must be celebrated

Sudipta Datta

The Gig Workers Act passed by the Rajasthan Assembly on Monday was the culmination of a campaign which centred around the demand for social security for unorganised workers. A Welfare Board has been proposed, comprising all stakeholders, and also a welfare fund, guaranteeing social security to platform-based gig workers. For thousands in the unorganised sector with no job security and few other guarantees, this will bring some solace for the future. Due to this lack of social security, many were pushed to the brink during COVID-19 and its aftermath.

How will the rampage of COVID-19 be remembered? Over six million people have died globally due to the virus, but the actual toll could be much higher. SARS-CoV-2 was first noticed in the Wuhan province of China in November 2019. By March 2020, the World Health Organization had declared it a pandemic, and it swept across the world, leading to waves of death and destruction.

The virus hit India hard too. Officially, 5,00,000 deaths were recorded in the two waves that hit the country, in 2020 and 2021, but as economists, analysts, researchers and activists on the ground have pointed out, there has been underreporting of cases and deaths.

Public policy

In his latest book, *Burning Pyres, Mass Graves and a State That Failed its People* (Speaking Tiger), Harsh Mander looks back at the first and second waves of the pandemic and argues that the suffering unleashed in the humanitarian crisis was not "caused" by the coronavirus alone. Instead, he says it was the inexorable consequence of public policy choices which treated the lives of millions of the working poor as dispensable.

Economist Jayati Ghosh raises a similar point. In *The Making of a Catastrophe: The State in the Time of COVID-19* (Aleph), Ms. Ghosh says that beyond the direct health and mortality impacts, the economic and social devastation experienced in India was a catastrophe, adding that this cannot be attributed only to the disease. Much of the damage resulted from government action and inaction, she points out.

While agreeing that several countries suffered worse fates, Ms. Ghosh says the damage to living and working conditions in India resulted principally from the way the government first attempted to control the disease with a "brutal lockdown", and then did not do enough to ensure basic protection for the poor. Since a majority of the workforce is in the informal sector, with no legal or social protection, a stringent policy had devastating consequences.

In the book, she mentions a survey of 3,176 households across five States (Assam, Bihar, Uttar Pradesh, Telangana and Delhi) which found that school education was badly hit, with children affected in multiple ways. While 52% of the children reported having a TV at home, only 11% said they had watched educational broadcasts; even when there were phones at home, only 30% children had access to it, and in this too boys were preferred over girls. Another survey based on teachers and parents found out that online schooling was not providing any real learning opportunities, given the constraints. The disruption in education, more often than not, led to a rise in child labour.

Ambiguous directives

In *The Great Shutdown, A Story of Two Indian Summers* (HarperCollins), Jyoti Mukul analyses the government's directives, some ambiguous, and also records the voices of those severely impacted. Filled with data and research, she writes that the low-intensity first wave was not used properly to prepare for a severe spike, which was seen during the second wave. The Union government intended to prevent the spread by imposing a lockdown in 2020, but the harsh lockdown made life difficult for the poor. "The Union government took belated note of the second wave," writes Mukul, "leading to not only the loss of lives but also a situation where things went out of control." People struggled to find medicines and oxygen as also to say goodbye to loved ones with "burning pyres and mass graves" the overwhelming images of the time.

Ms. Ghosh draws attention to the "weak fiscal response and inadequate public spending" that compounded matters and added to contractionary tendencies within the economy. Mr. Mander is scathing on one other count. He says India's rich and middle classes were "conspicuously indifferent" to the reality outside their safe homes.

Lessons from a pandemic

"It is our highest public duty that we must not forget," says Mr. Mander. There are inequalities of incomes, assets and opportunities, and the recovery will be a long and hard one, but Rajasthan's law for gig workers provides a glimmer of hope. As the economist Joan Robinson said about India, "... for everything that can be said about India, the opposite is also true."

The obvious question that looms rather uneasily over us, says Mr. Mander, is how should we craft our lives on the other side of the pandemic? He finds hope in the fact that even in times of acute despair, ordinary people, across differences of class, caste, gender, ethnicity, boundaries, came forward to help someone out.

He recounts several stories of "circles of kindness" – a homeless man dipping into his savings to feed others; policemen organising food kitchens for the hungry at police stations; people driving up to migrants offering them food and water and so on. It's imperative, he says, to learn lessons of solidarity, equality and justice. "Can we indeed resolve to fight to build back better?"

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The Korean War started in June 1950, and ended on this day in 1953. A quiz on the war

Radhika Santhanam

QUESTION 1
The Korean War is also referred to as 'The Forgotten War'. Which two events — one before it and one after — eclipsed the war, especially in American consciousness?

QUESTION 2
In June 1950, a Soviet-backed communist army from North Korea invaded South Korea. The U.S. wondered whether it should intervene in Korea. Its deliberations were guided by its foreign policy to "support democracies against authoritarian threats". It is known that the primary goal of this policy was to contain Soviet geopolitical expansion. What is this containment policy otherwise known as?

QUESTION 3
In August 1945, U.S. military planners divided the Korean peninsula in half along a line. What is this line popularly called?

QUESTION 4
The demilitarised zone between the two Koreas is one of the most heavily defended borders in the world. Which U.S. President referred to it as the "scariest place on Earth"?

QUESTION 5
South Korean leader Moon Jae-in and North Korean leader Kim Jong-un held a historic meeting in 2018 on the South Korean side of the Joint Security Area. What is the name of the declaration they made then?

Visual question:
When the Korean Armistice Agreement was signed in 1953 in Panmunjom, a copy of this painting hung inside the building. But the Americans covered the painting during the signing. They thought that the painting signified communism because the painter, a Spanish man, was a communist. Which painter is this and what is this painting called?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz: 1. Eric Blair wrote under this pen name. **Ans: George Orwell**
2. The name of the process which is an automatic, conditioned response that is paired with a specific stimulus. **Ans: Pavlovian conditioning**
3. The name of the drama from which the title 'Eyeless in Gaza' was taken and the Australian author who developed the Alexander Technique. **Ans: *Samson's Agonistes*; Frederick Matthias Alexander**
4. Huxley wrote a foreword to this Indian philosopher's book. **Ans: Jiddu Krishnamurti**
5. Huxley was commissioned by Walt Disney in 1945 to write a script based on this children's novel. **Ans: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll**
Visual: Identify this person and his organisation. **Ans: Swami Prabhavananda, Vedanta Society of Southern California**
Early Birds: Yoshita Saraswat| Varghese Joseph| Rajnandini| K. N. Viswanathan

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian

"Sir, Ms A. K. Pradhan, Burdwan wants to know the meaning of 'Kip.'"

" 'Kip' is 'a lodging house where beds may be rented.' It also means 'sleep.'

I am awfully tired. I'd like to have a kip.

It is used as a verb also. It means 'to go to bed,' 'to sleep.'

You can kip on my bed.

'Kip' is an informal word and is used in British English. 'Kip' also means hide of a young or small animal as used for leather'."

"Sir, Mr. P. Raghupathy, internal Auditor, Central Bank of India, T.Nagar, Madras, wants to know the meaning of (a): flotsam and jetsam; (b) last ditch."

" 'Flotsam" means 'parts of a wrecked ship or its cargo floating in the sea.' 'Jetsam' is 'goods thrown overboard from a ship to lighten it for example, in a storm.' Figuratively, 'flotsam and jetsam' means 'persons whose lives have been wrecked.'

These are the flotsam and jetsam of society.

'Flotsam' is from old French 'Floter' to float and 'jetsam' is from French 'Jeter' to throw out. The word 'jettison' is from the same root. 'To jettison' means 'to throw goods overboard, especially to lighten a ship in distress or an aircraft in flight', 'abandon,' 'discard.' It is used figuratively also.

It is sad that the committee jettisoned his bright idea.

Mr. Gorbachev has jettisoned some of the old ideas of the party.

'Last ditch' is 'a place of final desperate defence.' A last-ditch action is a desperate action.

We must fight to the last ditch all attempts to gag the press.

The word 'ditch' has several meanings. One of them is 'a long narrow passage cut into the ground with earth, sandbags or other shield put up to protect soldiers against fire and attack.'

There may be several ditches around a fortification.

'To fight to the last ditch' means 'to fight to the end.'"

"Sir, Mr. T. S. Krishnamachar, 2, III Cross, Annayyappa Block, Bangalore, wants to know the meaning of the word 'Parameter'."

"It is a mathematical term which means quantity constant in case considered, but varying in different cases; but now it is used to mean 'any distinguishing or defining characteristic or feature, especially one that may be measured or quantified, an element or aspect of anything.' Loosely, it is also used to mean 'boundary or limits.' It has become very fashionable to use 'parameter.' This is one of the most overworked words now.

We must keep in mind the parameters relating to the design."

"Prof. B. K. Chalagers wants to know the pronunciation of 'vice-versa'."

" 'Vice' rhymes with 'icy' and 'versa' rhymes with 'purser' 'bursar.' 'Vice-versa' is a Latin expression meaning 'the reverse.'

At the meeting he praised her and vice-versa.

It means that he praised her and she also praised him."

Published in The Hindu on October 11, 1988.

Word of the day

Invidious:
containing or implying a slight or showing prejudice

Synonym: discriminatory

Usage: *He made some invidious comparisons to show her in a better light.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/invidiouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ɪnˈvɪdi.əs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Measuring well-being in India

Raghav Gaiha
is Research Affiliate, Population Aging Research Center, University of Pennsylvania

Vidhya Unnikrishnan
is Lecturer in Development Economics, GDI, University of Manchester

Vani S. Kulkarni
is Research Affiliate, Population Studies Centre, University of Pennsylvania

There has been euphoria over India's economic growth accelerating to 6.1% in the March quarter, as it confirmed that the country remains one of the fastest growing emerging economies. Counterclaims followed in quick succession drawing attention to fall in private consumption, high inflation, rise in poverty, and income and wealth inequality. The rhetoric on either side has continued with growing intensity. What is missed in this debate, however, is that income is a narrow measure of well-being, as argued by Amartya Sen (1999), Angus Deaton (2008), and others. Although Sen and Deaton differ in their approach, they concur that we must look beyond income to measure well-being.

Life satisfaction and income

A close scrutiny of the relationship between life satisfaction and income based on Gallup World Poll (GWP) Surveys confirms a positive relationship between them with a slightly stronger effect in developed countries. But it is intriguing that growth of income has a negative effect on life satisfaction. It is plausible that there is a "threshold" income effect beyond which increases in income do not matter, or that there is no long-run relationship between the two. But this awaits empirical validation.

Trust in government represents the confidence of citizens in the actions of a "government to do what is right and perceived fair". Citizen expectations influence trust in government. If citizens' expectations rise faster than the actual performance of governments, trust and satisfaction could decline. These changes in expectations may explain more the erosion of political support rather than real government performance. Besides, citizens' trust towards government is influenced by whether they have a positive or negative experience with service delivery. A negative experience has a much stronger impact on trust in government than a positive one (OECD, 2013).

Our analysis of the relationship between life satisfaction is based on GWP Surveys for India in 2018, 2019, 2020 and 2021. Life satisfaction is measured as suffering, struggling, and thriving. The measures of affluence used are income per capita and its growth. Trust in government is measured as whether the respondent has confidence in the government. Individual demographic and economic characteristics include age, gender, religion, caste and whether the respondents live in rural or urban areas, and income and its growth. Overall income inequality is measured along the lines of Piketty, 2014.

Several results conform with global and regional studies (notably Deaton, 2008). There is a strong negative correlation between life satisfaction and age. Among those thriving, the proportion of those aged 55 and above was barely 9% compared to the over 43% of those aged 25-45, in 2021. There is a negative correlation between life satisfaction and women. This is not surprising as women face greater discrimination when employment is sluggish and are also subject to greater male violence when law enforcement is weak. There is a consistent negative correlation between life satisfaction and minorities. The share of Hindus among the thriving rose from 85% in 2019 to 89.6% while that of Muslims fell from about 7% to 2.3%. While the share of the unreserved (including Brahmins and 'high' castes) among the thriving rose from over 26.2% in 2019 to 38.7% in 2021, that of OBCs declined slightly from 33% to 31.5% and that of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes declined sharply from about 41% to just under 30%.

Turning to the measures of affluence, life satisfaction has a positive correlation with per capita income, but with a marked weakening in 2020, presumably due to COVID-19, and a rebound in 2021. Life satisfaction is unrelated to growth of income.

The Piketty measure of income inequality is a ratio of the share of the top 1% of individuals in total income to that of the bottom 50%. Life satisfaction is negatively correlated with this measure of inequality over 2019-21, with a slight strengthening of the correlation (in absolute value) in 2021. The correlation (in absolute value) was lowest in 2020 presumably because life satisfaction suffered due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Trust in government

Finally, we examine the relationship between life satisfaction and trust in government. As perceptions matter more than performance, aggressive pursuit of Hindu nationalism, promulgation of the Citizenship (Amendment) Act and subsequent outbursts of violence, lynching of Muslim and Dalit cattle traders, excessive centralisation, and suppression of media independence have left deep scars on the national psyche. A detailed analysis of the association between life satisfaction in 2019 and trust in the NDA government in 2018 (controlling for the confounders) reveals that there is a positive association between them. Among the thriving, the share of those who trusted the government fell from about 83% in 2019 to 79% in 2021. This may seem intriguing, but it is not if the thriving are more sensitive to attacks on minorities, journalists and other liberals, encounter killings, high inflation and unemployment. Among the suffering, the loss of trust was moderate. If these include mostly minorities and Dalits, their negative experiences and perceptions could lower their trust in the NDA government. In fact, trust in the NDA fell and so did well-being. In sum, any signs of reversal of policies are weak, if not missing altogether.

An analysis of the Gallup World Poll Surveys for India shows that any signs of reversal of policies are weak, if not missing altogether

The happy apple growers of Himachal

The decision to sell apples by weight and not box will benefit growers

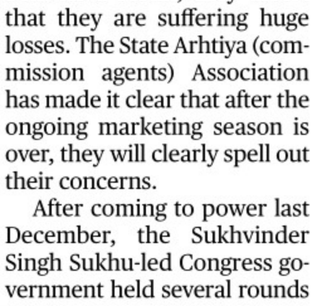
STATE OF PLAY

Vikas Vasudeva

The apple season has started in Himachal Pradesh. This year is especially significant as a new practice has come into force: the State's key horticulture crop is being sold by weight instead of the established practice of being sold per box. While this decision has been widely hailed by apple growers, it has been reluctantly accepted by commission agents and middlemen.

For a long time, the apple growers of Himachal Pradesh had been demanding that apples be procured in markets (mandis) on the basis of weight (in kilogrammes) and not by box. This is because they would invariably sell their produce according to the weight of the box and not the real weight of the produce, which was usually higher than the weight of the box. This resulted in losses for apple growers. The key problem was that there were no standard cartons in which the apples were packed.

The woes of apple growers began when wooden apple boxes were replaced in the late 1990s with cardboard-based telescopic boxes. The wooden boxes were not flexible, which meant that the quantity of apples in every box would remain the same (around 20 kg). However, with the advent of flexible telescopic cartons, boxes with a capacity of 20-24 kg each would end up in mandis with the produce weighing 30-35 kg at times. The apple growers complained that commission agents would arm-twist them into weighing the box. The commission agents, they said, would threaten not to buy the



produce saying the apples were "loose or low grade" (small/poor quality) unless the grower compensated them by stuffing the box with extra apples. This would help the agents get more produce and make an additional profit after selling it to traders. The growers were left with no choice given the perishable nature of apples and the absence of an adequate number of controlled atmosphere chambers to store apples.

The commission agents assert that they are not against the government's decision and that in the "interest of growers," they are ready to procure apples by weight. But the problem, they say, is that in markets outside the State, apples are being procured per box. As a result, they assert that they are suffering huge losses. The State Arhtiya (commission agents) Association has made it clear that after the ongoing marketing season is over, they will clearly spell out their concerns.

After coming to power last December, the Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu-led Congress government held several rounds of talks with all the stakeholders. On April 6, 2023, the government issued a notification under the Himachal Pradesh Agricultural and Horticultural Produce Marketing (Development and Regulation) Act, 2005, which stated that apples brought in boxes to all the fruit markets of the State would be sold on the basis of weight, which would also include the weight of the packing material. The maximum limit of the weight of the box has been set at 24 kg. Influential commission agents resisted this and went on a symbolic strike for a day. This led to a tussle between apple growers and commission agents. The State government eventually prevailed by putting its foot down and saying that apples would be sold by weight instead of by box in the ongoing season.

Apple is the most important fruit crop of Himachal Pradesh. It constitutes about 49% of the total area under fruit crops and about 85% of the total fruit production. The apple economy of the State is an estimated ₹5,500 crore-6,000 crore. This is why the government's decision is being seen as an attempt to woo voters in the apple belt, which is a politically significant area of the State, ahead of the 2024 general elections. The Lok Sabha polls will be a key test for the first-time Chief Minister, who recently led rescue operations from the front when floods wreaked havoc in the State. There are four parliamentary seats in the State: Mandi, Shimla, Kangra, and Hamirpur. Of the four, Shimla and Mandi seats have a substantial number of apple growers who will benefit from the government's decision. Politically, the State is divided into upper and lower Himachal. Most of the apple growers belong to the upper Himachal region. They are the beneficiaries of Mr. Sukhu's decision. The Chief Minister's home town, Nadaun, is a part of lower Himachal. Therefore, Mr. Sukhu has signified that he is above regional politics and is taking decisions that are in the best interests of apple growers.

India's rice export ban impacts Asian and African nations most

NRIs have been resorting to panic buying rice in the U.S. despite the country's relatively low dependence on imports from India

DATA POINT

Jasmin Nihalani

In the last couple of days, many panic-stricken Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) have thronged grocery stores and supermarkets in the United States to hoard bags of rice. Videos of people jostling to buy sona masuri rice (a lightweight and aromatic medium-grain rice) and photos of long queues outside Indian stores became viral on social media. In order to control the chaos, many stores in the U.S. placed a limit on the sale of rice. Some even restricted sales to 'one rice bag per family' to deal with the unprecedented crowds.

This sudden rush followed the Indian government's decision on July 20 to ban the export of non-basmati white rice to "ensure adequate availability in the Indian market and to allay the rise in prices in the domestic market." It did not restrict the export of the other types of semi/wholly milled rice – basmati and parboiled rice.

Chart 1 shows the quantity of the three different types of semi/wholly milled rice exported by India (in tonnes) over time. The exported share of non-basmati white rice surpassed the share of basmati rice in the last two fiscal years. In FY23, India exported around 64 lakh tonnes of non-basmati white rice and close to 45 lakh tonnes of basmati rice. The most widely exported type was parboiled rice (78 lakh tonnes). Now, non-basmati white rice, which formed over a quarter of semi/wholly milled rice, has been taken off the market.

Over 140 countries bought non-basmati white rice from India in FY23. **Chart 2** shows the average quantity of non-basmati white rice bought by the top 50 importers per year between FY19 and FY23. The effect of the ban will be most pronounced in the neighbouring countries of Nepal and Bangladesh, the African countries of Madagascar, Benin, Kenya, and Ivory Coast, the Asian countries of Malaysia and Vietnam, and the UAE, which are all the biggest buyers of this type of rice in absolute terms.

Interestingly, the U.S. is ranked 34th on the list, with just over 27,000 tonnes of average imports per year. In contrast, Nepal bought 4.5 lakh tonnes per year in the considered period. Thirty three other countries are more impacted by the ban than the U.S. So, the hullabaloo over rice in the U.S. can be explained as a reporting bias.

Chart 3 shows the average quantity of semi/wholly milled rice (all the three types together) bought per year between FY19 and FY23. The U.S., which bought over 2 lakh tonnes of such rice from India per year in the period, is ranked 11th. The bigger the circle, the higher the dependency of a country on India for rice.

Here too the U.S.'s dependency on India for semi/wholly milled rice was only 20% compared to Nepal's 99%. In fact, the dependency was over 50% in 23 countries – eight of them in West Asia and nine in sub-Saharan Africa. The data hints that a part of the rush in the U.S., which sources 80% of its needs from elsewhere (mostly Thailand), could also be due to panic buying or the preference of NRIs for Indian brands.

Back in India, the decision may bring relief to consumers as many of them, especially in the southern States, were paying over ₹50 for a kilo of rice as shown in **Table 5.** Climate change-related disasters such as extreme flooding in the north and relatively poor rainfall elsewhere have also impacted rice sowing this year.

Table 4 shows the usual area covered under rice (FY18 to FY23 average) for the week ending July 13 and July 20 compared to the actual area covered this year (FY24). Chhattisgarh and Odisha are running high deficits. Overall sowing has gone down, which is why the government is restricting rice exports.

Rush for rice

The data have been sourced from the Commerce Ministry, the Agriculture Ministry, COMTRADE, and the Department for Consumer Affairs

Chart 1: The chart shows the quantity of the three different types of semi/wholly milled rice exported by India in lakh tonnes over time

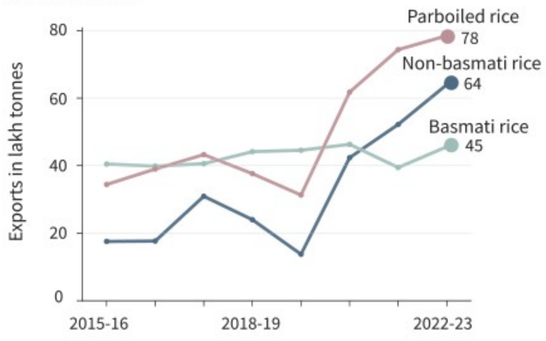


Chart 2: The chart shows the average quantity of non- basmati white rice bought by the top 50 importers per year between FY19 and FY23

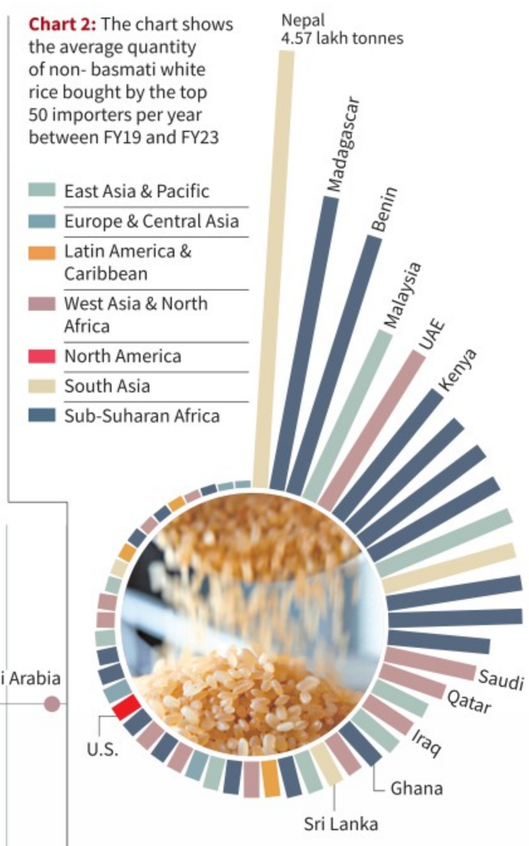


Chart 3: The chart shows the average quantity of semi/wholly milled rice bought per year between FY19 and FY23 (in tonnes). The bigger the circle the more the dependency

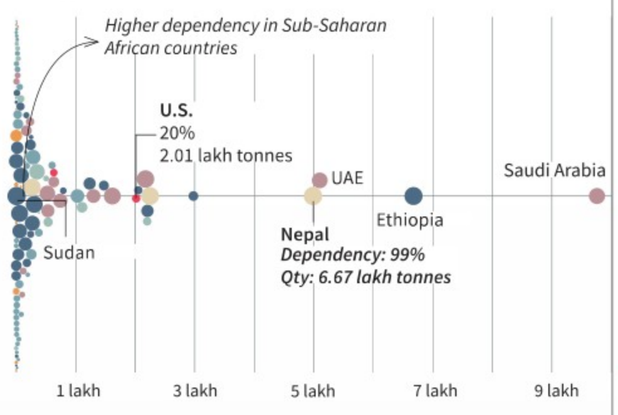


Table 4: The table shows the usual area covered by rice (lakh ha) compared to the actual area covered this year

	For week ending July 13		For week ending July 20	
State	Usual area covered	Actual area	Usual area covered	Actual area
Chhattisgarh	21.37	11.01	25.6	19.5
Odisha	10.22	2.89	13.7	5.0
Punjab	28.73	23.97	29.9	29.2
Assam	6.09	2.72	7.9	5.7
WB	4.10	2.84	8.3	5.6
Bihar	8.48	8.07	13.8	14.0
MP	8.56	8.30	12.5	20.8
Haryana	8.35	8.80	11.0	10.4
UP	31.24	31.86	41.1	39.1
All India	151.68	**123.18**	198.3	**180.2**

Table 5: The table shows the retail price of rice (₹ per kg) for select cities

	July 24, 2018	July 24, 2020	July 24, 2022	Jan. 24, 2023	June 24, 2023	July 17, 2023	July 24, 2023
Chennai	36	53	57	57	59	59	59
Hyderabad	28	44	46	41	53	53	53
Bengaluru	52	52	43	50	54	53	55
Mumbai	30	33	35	35	38	42	42
Delhi	34	35	32	37	38	39	39
Patna	31	30	36	38	38	38	38
Lucknow	28	25	31	31	35	36	36
Bhopal	30	27	30	29	33	36	36

Over 140 countries bought non-basmati white rice from India in FY23. The ban will hurt India's neighbours, African countries and Asian countries

nihalani.j@thehindu.co.in

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JULY 27, 1973

MISA can be used to check food offences

New Delhi, July 25: The Minister of State for Home Affairs, Mr. K.C. Pant, told the Rajya Sabha to-day that detention under the Maintenance of Internal Security Act would be resorted to for food offences also if a particular local situation so warranted. Replying to a question by Mr. Krishnan Kant (Cong) whether the Government would use MISA against those who obstructed procurement of foodgrains, Mr. Pant said preventive detention under MISA could be used for violation of the Essential Commodities Act. MISA, he said, had been used against hoarders, blackmarketeers and copper wire thieves. He had, however, no information whether MISA had been used against those who obstructed food procurement. Mr. Pant denied allegations by members that MISA had been used against political opponents and trade union leaders. No person, he asserted, had been detained on account of political affiliation. Asked by Mr. K.A. Khaja Mohideen (Muslim League) whether students would be exempted from the application of MISA, Mr. Pant said he had not seen the memorandum submitted to the Prime Minister by students to this effect. Replying to Mr. Bhupesh Gupta (CPI), Mr. Pant said in West Bengal, 1,303 people had been released following the Supreme Court judgment, but 1,044 of them were re-arrested. He said in 1971 instructions were issued by the Centre that officers authorised to take action under the MISA should be told in detail the procedures to be adopted before detention was resorted to.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JULY 27, 1923

In England

London, July 25: Speaking at the banker's dinner, Mr. Baldwin dwelt on Britain's achievements in restoring her finances. The floating debt had been reduced from fifteen hundred to eight hundred millions and all foreign debts paid, except that of the American Government. The Premier stated that officials numbered only ten per cent, above the pre-war time despite the creation of new departments. Continuing, he said that Britain had just made an offer to the Allies proposing that the first steps towards settlement conceived in such spirit that he hoped ultimate success would be attained and he would leave nothing undone to achieve settlement.

From Page One

No-trust motion against govt. admitted in LS

Asked about the Opposition move, Parliamentary Affairs Minister Pralhad Joshi said people have confidence in the Prime Minister as well as the BJP. "They had done that in the last term also and people had taught them a lesson and will do so again," Mr. Joshi said.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Gogoi admitted that the Lok Sabha numbers may be against them, but emphasised that the Opposition not only wants to hear from Mr. Modi on Manipur but also hopes to express solidarity with the people of the strife-torn State.

"Manipur has become a matter of national security, the conflict is spreading to other parts, and a huge number of weapons are with civilians, and there is trust deficit between communities. For all of these reasons, whether the motion is won or lost, it is important to calm the situation and heal the wounds," Mr. Gogoi said.

Though the Speaker has 10 days' time to schedule the debate, Congress leader Manish Tewari, on behalf of his party, demanded that it begin on Thursday. "All other work should be suspended and the Speaker should start the debate tomorrow [Thursday]," Mr. Tewari said.
(*With inputs from Sobhana K. Nair*)

Allow Mishra to remain ED chief, govt. urges SC

The submissions on effectiveness of the anti-money laundering regime in India were made on July 21 and an on-site visit by an FATF assessment team was scheduled in November, said the Centre in its 12-page application filed on Wednesday.

"At such a critical juncture, it is essential to have an individual who is well-acquainted with the overall status of money laundering investigations and proceedings across the country and also of the intricacies of the procedures, operations and activities of the investigating agency, at the helm of affairs at the ED," the Centre's application submitted.

It said Mr. Mishra's continuation would be pivotal to ably assist the assessment team with "necessary reports, information, statistics, etc". "Any transition in leadership at the ED at this stage would significantly impair the ability of the agency to provide necessary assistance to the assessment team and thereby adversely impact India's national interests," the Centre urged.

The Centre had earlier argued that the ED Director was not a promotional post, so nobody was losing a career opportunity due to the extension of Mr. Mishra's tenure.

We will cross LoC if needed, says Rajnath

Mr. Singh added that, in 1999, Indian armed forces had been specifically instructed not to cross the LoC. "With the victory, India sent a message to Pakistan and the world that our military will not back down at any cost if the nation's interests are harmed," he said.

He stressed that India's generosity should not be misinterpreted. "India has great respect for all other countries. It follows the norms laid down for international conduct, but its generosity should not be mistaken as its weakness," Mr. Singh said. The Defence Minister offered an assurance that the government was fully committed to safeguarding national interests. "No compromise will be made in protecting the sovereignty, unity and integrity of the country. We have given a free hand to the armed forces to eliminate the nation's enemies," he said.

He claimed that, earlier, the nation and the armed forces had lacked political will, which has now been provided by their government. "People should be mentally prepared, so that whenever the nation needs them, they should be ready to help the armed forces. Just as every soldier is an Indian; in the same way, every Indian should be ready to play the role of a soldier," he said.

Centre moves Bill to nominate migrants

It said that initially "all the migrants were moved to Jammu" and later on some chose to move to other parts of the country, namely Delhi, Bengaluru and Pune. As per the data available with the Government of Jammu and Kashmir, there are currently 46,517 families having 1,58,976 persons who registered with the Relief Organisation over past three decades.

It said that in the wake of the 1947 Pakistani aggression, 31,779 families migrated from Pakistan-occupied Kashmir. Further, during the wars of 1965 and 1971, 10,065 more families were displaced from the Chhamb Niabat area.

"The Delimitation Commission received many representations from the two communities regarding reservation of seats in the Legislative Assembly to preserve their political rights and identity." The commission recommended representation by way of nomination. It shall be given on lines of Section 15 of the 2019 Act, which provides for the representation of women. The commission increased total seats of the J&K Assembly from 107 to 114 with reservation of nine seats for the Scheduled Tribes for the first time.

Manipur govt. against drug cartels, not Kukis: CM

Press Trust of India
IMPHAL

Manipur Chief Minister N. Biren Singh on Wednesday said that his government is against drug cartels operating in the State and not the Kuki community, the members of which have been in the past accused by certain quarters of being involved in the narcotics business.

He asked Mizoram Chief Minister Zoramthanga, who took part in a rally at Aizawl on Tuesday to express solidarity with the Zo-Kuki people, not to interfere in the internal matter of another State. Mr. Singh said, "Tension began when the government started to act against drug cartels. The government is not against the Kukis."

Mr. Singh described as "barbaric" the hurling of abuses towards him at Aizawl. "I ask the Mizoram CM not to interfere in the internal matter of another State," he said.

Three injured, houses and buses burnt in fresh violence in Manipur

Congress legislators meet Governor Anusuiya Uikey in Imphal and demand an emergency Assembly session to discuss the 'ongoing unprecedented turmoil' in the State; in Moreh, houses of persons from Meitei community were set on fire

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Three persons were injured and several abandoned houses and two buses burnt by armed miscreants in three separate incidents in violence-hit Manipur on Tuesday and Wednesday.

The first incident took place on Tuesday, when suspected armed miscreants fired in the Heikol and Phougakchao Ikhai areas of Bishnupur district, in which three civilians sustained injuries, the Manipur Police said in a tweet.

"Security forces retaliated to the firing and repelled the miscreants," the police said.

Nine arrested

On Wednesday, nine persons were arrested for setting two buses on fire in Kangpokpi district the previous day. The incident took place at Sapermeina on National Highway 2 when a mob burnt down two buses on suspicion that members of the Meitei community were present in the vehicles. A juvenile was among those apprehended for the crime, the police said.

Raging fury: Buses burnt down on the National Highway-2 at Saropormaina area in Kangpokpi district of Manipur on Wednesday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

The third incident was reported from Moreh. On Wednesday, "an unruly mob burnt around 15 abandoned houses and partially burnt the Forest Guest House at Moreh," the police said, adding that security forces intervened and dispersed the mob. The houses belonged to the Meiteis who had to flee the village following the ethnic violence that erupted in the State on May 3.

More than 140 persons have been killed and over 54,000 persons displaced since the violence between the Meitei and the tribal Kuki-Zo communities stared in May.

Meanwhile, five members of the Congress Legislature Party in Manipur, including former Chief Minister O. Ibobi Singh, met Governor Anusuiya Uikey in Imphal and demanded an emergency Assembly session to discuss the "ongoing unprecedented turmoil" in the State.

NCW chief meets sexual violence victims in the State

Vijaita Singh
Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The National Commission for Women (NCW) chairperson made a quiet visit to Manipur this week to meet two of the three victims of the sexual violence on May 4, when they were stripped and paraded and one of them was raped in Thoubal. A video clip of the violence that surfaced last week had sparked massive outrage.

Rekha Sharma, chief of NCW, met the victims in Churachandpur on Tuesday, the first visit by any Central government representative since the violence occurred more than 80 days ago. A source said the NCW chief was in Manipur for three days.

She also met senior officials of the State and police administration, including Chief Secretary Vineet Joshi and Director General of Police Rajiv Singh. "Both the Chief Secretary and the DGP gave Ms. Sharma an update on the action taken in the matter. She also met women's groups, civil society representatives and women affected by violence from both Meitei and Kuki-Zo communities," the source added.

The survivors of the violence are being counselled by private persons. Their statement under Section 164 of the CrPC is yet to be recorded. The statement recorded by a Judicial Magistrate is sufficient to frame charges against the accused. So far, seven persons, including a juvenile, have been arrested for the crime, while the police has identified a total of 14 suspects.

Ms. Sharma, who returned to Delhi on Wednesday, is likely to meet senior officials of the Union government and is expected to come out with a report on attacks on women in the strife-torn State soon.

On July 20, a day after the video went viral on social media, Ms. Sharma had asked the DGP and the Chief Secretary to submit an action taken report within four days.

'Modi calls Opposition terrorists, Shah seeks cooperation on Manipur'

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday told Union Home Minister Amit Shah that there was a "world of difference" between the sentiments expressed in his letter to Opposition leaders on Manipur, and the actions actually taken by his government, noting that his letter came on a day when Prime Minister Narendra Modi had "equated the Opposition with terror groups".

On Tuesday, the Home Minister had written to Mr. Kharge, seeking his cooperation and reiterating the government's willingness to hold elaborate discussions on Manipur.

"In a single day, the respected Prime Minister links the Opposition parties of the country with British rulers and terrorist groups and on the same day, the Home Minister writes an emotional letter and expects a positive response from the Opposition," Mr. Kharge said, in his letter to Mr. Shah.

Mallikarjun Kharge

"The lack of coordination between the ruling party and the Opposition was visible for years, now this gulf has started appearing even within the ruling party. It is not only absurd but also unfortunate for the Prime Minister to call Opposition parties directionless on this," he added.

The Congress president, who is also the Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha, said that Mr. Modi should come to the House and give a statement on Manipur, which has been facing a grim situation for the past 84 days. He said that all political parties were expected to work towards the restoration of peace and to give a message to the people of Manipur from Parliament, this highest House of the country.

"There is a world of difference between the words and actions of the sentiments expressed in your letter," Mr. Kharge said. "We have been urging the Prime Minister to come to the House and give a statement on Manipur, but it seems that doing so is hurting his honour. We have a commitment to the people of this country and will pay any cost for it."

He said that every day, notices were being given under Rule 267 by the Opposition MPs, but those sitting in the ruling party block them; when the Leader of the Opposition rises to speak after the permission of the Chairman, the Leader of the House interrupts without permission, and against the convention of the House.

Nitish slams PM's silence on Manipur incident

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar on Wednesday slammed Prime Minster Narendra Modi for keeping mum on the Manipur situation, saying this was why the no-confidence motion against his government had been put forth in Parliament by the Opposition.

Mr. Nitish said Mr. Modi was panicked by the Opposition's unity in forming the Indian National Development, Inclusive Alliance (INDIA).

"Mr. Modi should speak on behalf of the government on no-confidence motion. The PM has repeatedly been [asked] to [turn his] attention towards the incident that where women were disrobed. The Opposition is speaking unitedly, but he [the Prime Minister] is keeping mum," he said.

Speaking about Mr. Modi's jibes at the name of the INDIA coalition, Mr. Nitish said, "This reflects how he feels [that there is] trouble ahead."

EPFO's IT system collapsing, software causing wastage of time: officers' SOS to Centre

Vikas Dhoot
NEW DELHI

The EPFO's Board of Trustees, chaired by the Minister, is aware of the IT challenges, says the association

Officers of the Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) shot off an unusually grave missive to the Union government on Wednesday, slamming its inaction on fixing the fund's archaic and "collapsing" software systems, and finalising replacements for old servers that would likely stop working by January 2024.

In their communique to Union Labour and Employment Minister Bhupender Yadav, the officers hinted that the situation is likely to get worse and stressed that they must not be held responsible for issues beyond their control.

Warning that any delays in procuring new servers and hardware will cost the EPFO and its members "dearly", the EPF Officers' Association (EPFOA) has pointed out that they maintain over 25 crore employees' PF accounts, with a massive corpus of ₹21 lakh crore.

However, the EPFO has a paltry IT budget, over half of which is spent on hardware such as computers and printers, while software development gets hardly any attention. The EPFO lacks clear IT policies or human resources, they flagged.

The EPFO's Board of Trustees, chaired by Mr. Yadav, is aware of its IT challenges, they said.

The Board had endorsed the recommendations of an *ad hoc* panel on IT issues headed by the Labour Secretary in March 2022. No progress has been made on implementation of the recommendations, they said.

Flooded with plaints

The EPFO's internal official WhatsApp group, with senior officers from the headquarters and field offices, is "flooded on a daily basis with complaints and requests for help from field offices regarding slow or dead working-speed of the software causing wastage of precious man-hours and increasing claims pendency levels", the EPFOA revealed.

The EPFOA has emphasised that pendency of member claims and grievances is on the rise.

HC extends stay on ASI survey of Gyanvapi till today; asks official to be present in court

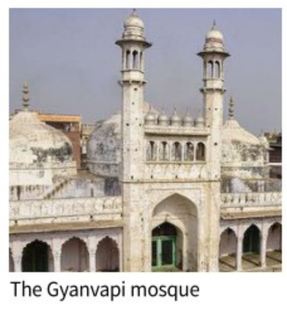
The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Allahabad High Court on Wednesday stayed the Archaeological Survey of India's scientific survey of the Gyanvapi mosque premises till Thursday, while orally expressing "strong doubts" about the work.

This is the second time the ASI survey has been stayed during the week. The Supreme Court had stayed the survey on July 24, giving the Gyanvapi mosque management "breathing time" to approach the High Court.

A Bench headed by Chief Justice Pritinker Diwaker ordered the stay to continue while scheduling the case at 3.30 p.m. on July 27.

The High Court asked for an ASI official to be present in the courtroom.



The Gyanvapi mosque

Meanwhile, a Supreme Court Bench led by Chief Justice of India (CJI) D.Y. Chandrachud corrected an inadvertent error in its July 24 order. The apex court, while disposing of the mosque management's application against the ASI survey on Monday, had mistakenly closed its pending appeal against an Allahabad High Court decision which upheld the maintainability (under Order 7 Rule 11 of the Code of Civil Procedure) of the Hindu women plaintiffs' suit for declaration of their right to worship on the premises.

The Anjuman Intezamia Masjid Committee had drawn the attention of the court to the error in an urgent mentioning. Solicitor-General Tushar Mehta seconded the committee's plea to right the error.

The mosque management has moved the High Court against a July 21 order of the Varanasi District Court to conduct the scientific survey of the mosque premises located next to the Kashi Vishwanath temple. The ASI was at pains to affirm that the survey was "non-invasive". Mr. Mehta had informed the apex court on July 24 that the survey team was only conducting mapping, ground-penetrating radar survey and photography of the premises.

Parliamentary privilege breached: Kharge

Congress chief says he was insulted when the microphone was turned off while he was speaking; for the fifth day in a row, the Upper House saw acrimonious exchanges between the government and the Opposition, with the latter staging a walkout to protest against PM's continued absence

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Rajya Sabha Mallikarjun Kharge on Wednesday said that he was "insulted" when his microphone was turned off while he was speaking during the session on Tuesday. He called it a breach of his parliamentary privilege.

For the fifth day in a row, the Upper House saw acrimonious exchanges between the government and the Opposition, with the latter walking out in the post-lunch session to protest Prime Minister Narendra Modi's continued absence from Parliament.

The day began with 42 notices moved by the Opposition demanding a statement from Prime Minister Narendra Modi, all of which were rejected by Chairman Jagdeep Dhankhar. Amid sloganeering from both sides, Mr. Kharge rose to speak. Referring to Tuesday's proceedings, he said he had not been allowed to speak in the House and that his microphone was turned off.

"It was a breach of my privilege... My self-respect has been challenged. If the House is run on the instructions of the government, then I understand that it is not a democracy," he said.

Suspended AAP MP Sanjay Singh and other Opposition MPs sit in protest at the Parliament House. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

The Congress, according to sources, is planning to escalate this issue and is exploring the possibility of moving a privilege motion.

After a brief adjournment, the two sides clashed again during the Question Hour. Congress MP Amee Yajnik, who was to ask a supplementary question on the performance of Indian universities, instead asked why the women Ministers in the Cabinet were silent on sexual violence in Manipur. At this, Union Minister Smriti Irani launched a blistering attack on the Opposition. "I take strong objection to this because women Ministers and women politicians have spoken not only on Manipur but also on Rajasthan, Chhattisgarh and Bihar. Tell me, when will you have the guts to discuss Rajasthan? When will you have the guts to discuss Chhattisgarh, when will you have the courage to discuss what is happening in Bihar," Ms. Irani asked.

When the Upper House of Parliament reassembled after lunch, Deputy Chairman Harivansh called Union Tribal Affairs Minister Arjun Munda to move the Constitution (Scheduled Tribes) Order (Third Amendment) Bill, 2022, amid demands from the Opposition members for a discussion on the Manipur issue. The Opposition staged a walkout, flagging the Prime Minister's absence for five consecutive sittings.

Mr. Kharge said that the government was not giving an opportunity to the Opposition to put forth their views nor did it want to listen to their demands.

EC tells NCP factions to share documents within three weeks

Abhinay Deshpande
Sreeparna Chakrabarty
MUMBAI/NEW DELHI

The Election Commission (EC) has directed both the Sharad Pawar and Ajit Pawar factions of the Nationalist Congress Party (NCP) to share with each other the documents submitted to the commission while staking claim to be the real party.

According to sources in the EC, both factions have been asked to confirm the same within three weeks. "The EC has further directed that both sides should give a copy to each other of any documents they submit to the commission in the future as well," a source said. The EC has asked them to exchange documents as some MLAs whose support was being claimed might be overlapping.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, a senior leader from the Sharad Pawar camp said they had received a notice from the EC asking for a response to the submission made by the Ajit Pawar camp claiming to be the actual party, with the support of the majority of legislators.

"It is a routine process. Even they [the Ajit Pawar camp] received a similar notice as we too filed a petition," the leader said.

Delhi services Bill: 4 parties issue whips to members

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Bracing for the introduction of the Government of National Capital Territory of Delhi (Amendment) Bill, 2023, at least four Opposition parties – the Congress, the Trinamool Congress, the RJD, the JD(U) and the BRS – have issued whips asking their members to be present in the Rajya Sabha on Thursday and Friday and vote against the Bill.

The Union Cabinet has approved the Bill to replace the Ordinance.

All parties under the INDIA coalition have extended support to the Aam Aadmi Party's campaign against the Bill.

Amid protests in J&K, govt. to add more groups to Scheduled list

Three Bills in the Lok Sabha likely to shake up the reservation structure in Union Territory

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Union government on Wednesday introduced three Bills in the Lok Sabha, which are likely to shake up the reservation structure for education and employment in Jammu and Kashmir, even as anger is mounting in the Union Territory over the issue.

The Tribal Affairs Ministry introduced the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Tribes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, through which the "Pahari ethnic group" will be added to the Union Territory's Scheduled Tribes list, along with three other communities, Gadda Brahmin, Koli, and Paddari tribe.

The Social Justice Ministry, meanwhile, introduced the Constitution (Jammu and Kashmir) Scheduled Castes Order (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which proposed to add Valmiki as a synonym for the Chura, Bhangi, Balmiki, and Mehtar communities in the Union Territory's Scheduled Castes list.

Furthermore, the Union Home Ministry introduced the Jammu and Kashmir Reservation (Amendment) Bill, 2023, which partially redefines "Socially and Educationally Backward Classes" (SEBC) as "Other Backward Classes" (OBC), with the government saying this would also enable the implementation of the 105th Constitutional Amendment "in letter and spirit". The 105th Amendment affirms the right of governments of States and Union Territories to declare their own subsets of SEBCs.

While the Union government had started the process of adding the "Pahari ethnic group" to J&K's ST list in 2022, existing STs have in this time continually opposed the move, saying it would allow socially and economically forward communities to get the benefits of reservations. At the forefront of this opposition have been the Gujjar and Bakarwal communities, most of which share the Pir Panjal Valley with the Paharis.

On Monday, protests grew in Jammu and Kashmir over the changes being proposed to the SC and ST lists, with members of the OBC Mahasabha, the All India Backward Classes Federation, and the All J&K Welfare Forum, Srinagar, participating in the protest.

The changes to the quota structure and SEBCs in J&K follow suggestions from the commission headed by Justice G.D. Sharma (retd).

Opposition MPs walk out of parliamentary panel meet on Personal Data Protection Bill

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Opposition members walked out of a meeting of the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Information Technology on Wednesday, objecting to the panel's adoption of a "laudatory" report on the Digital Personal Data Protection Bill, 2023.

The Union Cabinet approved the latest version of the Bill only on July 5, and the Opposition MPs on the panel said none of them had read it yet. The Bill was never formally referred to the committee, which is headed by Shiv Sena (Shinde) MP Prataprao Jhadav. The Opposition MPs said none of them were aware that such a report about the Bill was in the works; the draft report was only circulated on the eve of the meeting. Despite this, the report said, "The committee, therefore, in no uncertain words endorse the proposed legislation without any reservations or ambiguity."

Wednesday's meeting was only the third since the committee was reconstituted in September 2022. It has had just two rounds of discussion with the officials from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The committee had been discussing the subject of "citizens' data security and privacy", but Opposition MPs noted that a report cannot be framed on the basis of such "informal interactions".

The meeting saw high drama, with seven Opposition MPs and eight MPs from the BJP and allied parties engaged in a bitter exchange for nearly an hour. Opposition MPs argued that the adoption of the report was patently illegal and broke all Parliamentary traditions.

When the argument came to a head, BJP MP Nishikant Dubey proposed a vote to break the deadlock, at which the Opposition members walked out.

KOCHI METRO RAIL LIMITED
(A joint venture company of Govt. of India & Govt. of Kerala)
4th Floor, JLN Stadium Metro Station, Kaloor, Ernakulam-682017
Ph: 0484-2846700

E-TENDER

1. License for advertisement rights at various locations (inside & outside) in Metro Station premises.
   Tender-id : 2023_KMRL_583318_2
   Last date of submission : 01-Aug-2023 upto 17.00 hrs.
2. Name of the Tender : Design, Build, Delivery, Installation and Commissioning of Floating Pontoons.
   Tender-id : 2023_KMRL_589460_1
   Last date of submission : 05-September 2023 upto 17 hrs

Tender documents can be downloaded from www.etenders.kerala.gov.in / www.kochimetro.org
Further corrigendum & addendum will be published only on website

The West Bengal Power Development Corporation Limited
(A Govt. of West Bengal Enterprise)
Corporate Identity No. U40104WB1985SGC039154
Registered & Corporate Office : Bidyut Unnayan Bhaban
Plot No.: 3/C, LA - Block, Sector- III, Bidhannagar, Kol-700106

Notice Inviting E-Tender

Ref No.: WBPDCL / Tend-Adv/23-24/CORP/CC-433 Dated: 21.07.2023
NIT No.: WBPDCL/CORP/NIT/E1730/23-24 Dated : 21.06.2023

"Supply Installation Testing and Commissioning of AV solutions, LAN Network, CCTV system, EPBAX System, Desktop, Laptop, MEP and other peripherials at Training Centre, New town, Action Area-II, Kolkata".

NIT Document Download Start Date / End Date : 21.07.2023 at 05:00 PM. / 16.08.2023 till 03.00 PM. Contact Person: 1) For Tender related enquiry: The Manager, M&C, Corporate. Contact No.: +91 033 2339 3611 / 9830287628. E-mail : a.goswami@wbpdcl.co.in
For visit of the site and other technical details: 1. Abir Ranjan Rakshit, Senior Manager-ITC, Corporate, WBPDCL. Mobile : 8336903737. E-mail: ar.rakshit@wbpdcl.co.in 2. Sri Rudra Bhanu Gupta, Senior Manager - HR&A, Corporate, WBPDCL. Mobile: 8336904086. E-mail: Rbgupta@wbpdcl.co.in For details please visit https:// wbtenders.gov.in
ICA- T14621(3)/2023

SOUTHERN RAILWAY
TENDER NOTICE.NO.
SR-TVCOSnT(TEND)/3/2023/11
dated 25.07.2023.
Senior Divisional Signal & Telecommunication Engineer, Southern Railway, Thiruvananthapuram-14 for and on behalf of The President of India invites e-tenders for the following work.
Tender No.: TVC-SNT-TELE-23-24-11
Name of work: Provision of Electronic telephone with Voice logger for Non-interlocked LC Gates in TVC Division.
Cash Value (Approx.) (Rs.): 18,90,262.24
Earnest Money Deposit (Rs.): 37,800
Last Date for Receipt of Tender: 16.08.2023 upto 14.00 Hrs
Completion period: 4 months.
Complete details & tender document will be available at www.ireps.gov.in.
Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

NATIONAL BOARD OF EXAMINATIONS in Medical Sciences
(Autonomous body of the M/o. Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of India)
NAMS Building, Medical Enclave, Ansari Nagar, New Delhi – 110029

NATIONAL ELIGIBILITY CUM ENTRANCE TEST-SUPERSPECIALTY
NEET-SS 2023

NOTICE

National Board of Examinations in Medical Sciences (NBEMS) shall conduct the National Eligibility cum Entrance Test – Superspecialty (NEET-SS) 2023 on **9th and 10th September 2023.**

Please refer to the Information Bulletin at NBEMS website **https://natboard.edu.in** for details pertaining to eligibility criteria, fee structure, scheme of examination and other details.

Important Dates	
Availability of Information Bulletin	27th July 2023 onwards
Online Submission of the Application Form	27th July 2023 to 16th August 2023
Date of Examination	9th and 10th September 2023
Declaration of the Result	by 30th September 2023

Candidate Care Support: +91-7996165333
• Helpline Portal on applicant login page
• Communication Web Portal on NBEMS Website

Government of Odisha - "e" PROCUREMENT NOTICE
WORKS DEPARTMENT
Bid Identification No.C.C.E.K.C., Keonjhar No. 18 / 2023-24
e-mail : ccekeonjharpwdcircle@gmail.com / sekcpwd_keonjhar@yahoo.com
Letter No.3792, dt.21.07.2023

1. No. of the work	:-	3 number Building Works
2. Estimated cost	:-	Rs.101.31 Lakhs to Rs.814.14 Lakhs
3. Class of Contractor	:-	"B" , "A", "Special" Class
4. Period of completion	:-	07 (Seven) Calendar Months to 12 (Twelve) Calendar Months
5. Date and Time of availability of Bid document in the portal	:-	From 11.00 Hours of 04.08.2023 to 16.00 Hours of 19.08.2023.
6. Last date/Time for receipt of bids in the portal	:-	16.00 Hours of 19.08.2023
7. Date of opening of Bid from Portal	:-	11.30 Hours on 21.08.2023
8. Name and address of the Officer Inviting Bid	:-	Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar-758001.

Further details can be seen from the e-procurement portal "http://tendersodisha.gov.in"
Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, Keonjhar (R&B) Circle, Keonjhar.
B-540: OIPR-34033/11/0030/2324

OFFICE OF THE THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER PWD DN KUSHALGARH.
DISTT BANSWARA (RAJ).
No:-182 Date:-14-07-2023
Notice Inviting Bid No. 05/2023-24
NIB:- PWD2324A1742
Bids for Jirnoddhar and Development of Temples, Repair of Damaged Vented Causeway and Const. of Stadium are invited from interested bidders upto 31.07.2023, 06:00 P.M. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal ("http://www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in and http://www.sppp.rajasthan.gov.in) of the state. The approximate value of procurement is Rs. 928.00 Lacs.
UBN:- PWD2324WSOB08297 TO PWD2324WSOB08300
(Anil Kumar Charpota)
Executive Engineer
PWD Dn. Kushalgarh
DIPR/C/10758

Government of Odisha
Office of the Chief Construction Engineer ,
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE, Bhawanipatna

NOTICE
FOR PRADHAN MANTRI GRAM SADAK YOJANA (PMGSY)
NATIONAL COMPETITIVE BIDDING THROUGH e-Procurement Notice for PMGSY-III, Batch-I (2022-23) Package
Bid identification No. BPT/Online-09/2023-24

The Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bhawanipatna on behalf of Odisha State Rural Road Agency invites the percentage rate bids in electronic tendering system for construction of roads & bridges under Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana in the districts of Nuapada for 01 (One) number of package with estimated cost totaling to Rs.5.81 Cr including their maintenance for five years from the eligible contractors registered with State PWD / CPWD / MES / Railways. The registered bidder of outside Odisha, can also participate in this process, but shall have to subsequently undergo registration with the appropriate authority of the State Govt. preferably within a month of the deadline for bid submission, but prior to signing of the contract

Date of release of Invitation for Bids through e-procurement.dtd.02.08.2023.

Availability of Bid Documents and mode of submission: The bid document is available online and should be submitted online in www.pmgsytenders.gov.in. The bidder would be required to register in the web-site which is free of cost. For submission of the bids, the bidder is required to have a valid Digital Signature Certificate (DSC) from one of the authorized Certifying Authorities. The bidders are required to submit (a) original Demand Draft towards the cost of bid document and (b) original bid security in approved format (c) original affidavit regarding correctness of information furnished with bid document as per provisions of Clause 4.4B(a)(ii) of ITB with C.C.E., R.W. Circle, Bhawanipatna / Concerned Executive Engineers, R.W.Division (as per Tender Call Notice) on a date not later than three working days after the opening of technical qualification part of the Bid, either by registered post or by hand, failing which the bids shall be declared non-responsive.

Last Date/ Time for receipt of bids through e-procurement: 17.08.2023 upto 5.00 PM
For further details please log on to www.pmgsytenders.gov.in
CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER,
Rural Works Circle, Bhawanipatna
O-468: OIPR-25102/11/0013/2324

Government of Tamil Nadu
HIGHWAYS DEPARTMENT
Projects Circle, Chennai-16

TENDER NOTICE
Tender Notice No. 04/2023-2024/JDO/Dated. 25.07.2023

For and on behalf of Governor of Tamil Nadu **Item Rate tender through online only** will be received **upto 01.09.2023, 15.00 hours** by the **Superintending Engineer (H) Projects Circle, Chennai** for **One High Level Bridge Work** in respect of **Cuddalore (H) Projects Division** under **Comprehensive Road Infrastructure Development Programme 2023 – 2024.**

Name of the work, approximate value of work, EMD, tender documents and all other details are available from **02.08.2023** onwards in the Government website **https://tntenders.gov.in.** If any Changes / Corrections / Amendments etc, related to the tender, it will be published on the above Government website only.

DIPR/4047/TENDER/2023
Superintending Engineer (H),
Projects Circle, Chennai-16.
"சோதனை கடந்து சுதந்திரம் அடைந்தோம், சாதனை புரிந்து சரித்திரம் படைப்போம்."

शिक्षुता प्रशिक्षण बोर्ड (दक्षिणी क्षेत्र)
BOARD OF APPRENTICESHIP TRAINING (SOUTHERN REGION)
(शिक्षा मंत्रालय का स्वायत्त निकाय, उच्चतर शिक्षा विभाग, भारत सरकार)
(An Autonomous Body under Ministry of Education, Department of Higher Education, Government of India)
चौथा क्रॉस रोड, सी.आई.टी. अहाता, तारामणि, चेन्नई-600 113
4th Cross Road, C.I.T. Campus, Taramani, Chennai-600 113.
दूरभाष / Ph: 044-2254 1292 / 2254 2236 / 2254 2703. वेबसाइट / Website: www.boat-srp.com

उप निदेशक (प्रशिक्षण) – 01 पद के लिए आवेदन आमंत्रित है।
Applications are invited for the Post of Deputy Director of Training – 01 Post

पद का नाम और वर्गीकरण / Name and classification of Post	रिक्तियों की संख्या / No.of Vacancies	ग्रेड वेतन के साथ वेतनमान (7वीं सीपीसी के अनुसार) / Pay Scale with Grade Pay (as per 7th CPC)	आयु सीमा / Age Limit	आरक्षण की श्रेणी / Category of Reservation
उप निदेशक (प्रशिक्षण) समूह – अ / Deputy Director of Training Group "A"	01	प्रवेश वेतन 67700 रु. के साथ स्तर 11 – 7वीं सीपीसी के अनुसार / Level-11 with entry pay Rs.67700/- as per 7th CPC	45 वर्ष / 45 years	अनारक्षित 01 / UR - 01

योग्यता, आयु, अनुभव, कार्य विवरण, भूमिका व उत्तरदायित्व, शर्त व निबंधन तथा अन्य निर्देशों से संबंधित पूर्ण विवरण के लिए वेबसाइट : www.boat-srp.com, होम पेज के समाचार और घटनाओं के खंड को देखें।

For full details regarding qualifications, age, experience, Job Description, Roles & Responsibilities, terms & conditions and other instructions, please visit our Website : www.boat-srp.com, news & events section in the Home page.

उपरोक्त वेबसाइट से आवेदन को डाउनलोड कर सकते हैं। सभी शर्तों व निबंधन को संतुष्ट करनेवाले विधिवत् पूर्ति किये गये आवेदन को उसमें उल्लेखित पता पर 21 अगस्त 2023 या उससे पूर्व भेजें।

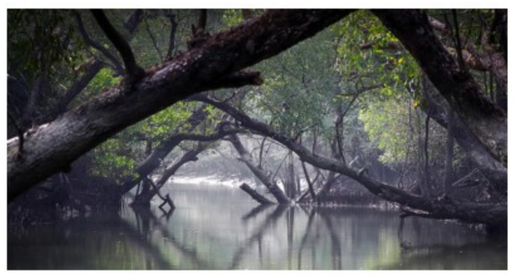
Application can be downloaded from above website. Duly filled application satisfying all terms and conditions shall be sent to the address mentioned therein on or before 21st August 2023.

उम्मीदवारों को सलाह दी जाती है कि वे आगे के अपडेट के लिए हमारी वेबसाइट www.boat-srp.com, होम पेज के समाचार और घटनाओं के खंड को देखें। कृपया ध्यान दें कि इस संबंध में सभी महत्वपूर्ण जानकारी केवल हमारी वेबसाइट पर पोस्ट की जाएगी।

"Aspirants are advised to visit our website www.boat-srp.com, news & events section in the Home page frequently for further updates. Please note that all important information in this regard would only be posted in our website."

निदेशक प्रशिक्षण /
DIRECTOR OF TRAINING
शिक्षुता प्रशिक्षण बोर्ड (द. क्षे.), चेन्नई /
BOAT (SR), Chennai

INBRIEF



West Bengal government announces a 'mangrove cell'

West Bengal, which is home to about 40% of the mangrove forests in India, announced the setting up of a 'mangrove cell' in the State, on the occasion of the International Day for the Conservation of the Mangrove Ecosystem on Wednesday. "This will bring continuity to the efforts of the State government in mangrove management. The cell has an action plan for the plantation of mangroves, it will also look at maintenance and coordinate with NGOs," Vivek Kumar, Principal Secretary to the State's Forest Department, said. Mr. Kumar made the announcement during a symposium in Kolkata. He said that the cell will generate funds from private and international sectors.

BSP chief slams the U.P. govt over the murder of Dalit man

Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) president Mayawati on Wednesday alleged that the morale of criminal elements in Uttar Pradesh is very high, after a Dalit man was killed in the Chillupar area of Gorakhpur district. The former four-time U.P. Chief Minister asked the State government to take immediate cognisance of the incident and initiate strict action against the accused under appropriate sections of the IPC. In an incident that happened on Wednesday morning, Raj Kishor was killed over a dispute. "A gang of illegal miners attacked a Dalit family, killing one person and injuring many others. This is very sad and condemnable," wrote Ms. Mayawati on Twitter.

Steps taken to secure data in CoWin app, says Vaishnaw

Taking cognisance of a cyber incident related to CoWIN data in June, the Indian Computer Emergency Response (CERT-In), along with the Union Electronics and Information Technology Ministry, coordinated incident response measures with the Health and Family Welfare Ministry, Electronics and Information Technology Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw said in response to a question in the Lok Sabha by Ravi Kumar and Asaduddin Owaisi, MPs, on Wednesday on the leakage of CoWIN app data. Mr. Vaishnaw said a law enforcement agency had filed a first information report (FIR).

UGC guidelines on varsities to seek out private funding

The University Grants Commission (UGC) in a meeting held on Tuesday approved the Guidelines for Institutional Development Plan (IDP) for Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). The guidelines are aimed at enabling HEIs in achieving academic and research excellence and improving teaching - learning standards. It is also to guide the HEIs to exercise academic, financial and business autonomy with accountability. UGC Chairman M.Jagadesh Kumar told *The Hindu* that the IDP document prepared by UGC provides guidance to the HEIs to help align their efforts towards a shared vision, ensuring that everyone is working in sync towards shared goals.

Transgender people can use existing quotas: govt.

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Centre told the Supreme Court that transgender persons can avail themselves of any of the existing 50% reservation in admissions and government jobs already available to Scheduled Castes, Scheduled Tribes and Socially and Educationally Backward Communities across the country. The government said transgender persons could also benefit from the 10% quota granted to the Economically Weaker Sections (EWS) of society.

"The benefits of any of the reservation can be availed by the marginalised and eligible population of the country, including transgender persons," the 12-page affidavit of the Social Justice Ministry informed.

However, the Ministry has not mentioned reservation for the transgender community as a separate class. The Supreme Court in its 2014 judgment in the National Legal Services Authority case had directed the Centre and the State governments to "take steps to treat transgender persons as socially and educationally backward classes of citizens and extend all kinds of reservation in cases of admission in educational institutions and for public appointments". The Ministry's response came in a contempt plea accusing the government of not implementing the directions in the 2014 judgment.

530 districts reported as free of manual scavenging: Centre

Ministry says manual scavenging is no longer practised in India; T.N., Chhattisgarh, Bihar among States with all districts reporting free status

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Jammu and Kashmir, Manipur, Telangana, Andhra Pradesh, West Bengal, and Jharkhand are among the States and Union Territories that have the highest number of districts yet to declare themselves free of manual scavenging, showed data submitted by the Social Justice Ministry in the Rajya Sabha on Wednesday.

In response to multiple questions related to deaths caused by manual scavenging or hazardous cleaning of sewers, the Union government said that India had not reported deaths due to manual scavenging in the past five years, while 330 people had died during cleaning of sewers and septic tanks.

The Ministry said 530 districts had so far reported themselves to be free of manual scavenging, while the rest were yet to do so. The Ministry said manual scavenging was no longer carried out in the country.

While 100% of the districts in States such as Bihar, Rajasthan, Tamil Nadu, and a few others had declared themselves to be free of manual scavenging, 15% to 20% of the districts have reported so in several States and Union Territories.

The Union government said that India had seen no deaths due to manual scavenging in the past five years. S.S. KUMAR

In Manipur, just two of the 16 districts had reported as free of manual scavenging. In Jammu and Kashmir and Telangana, just 30% of the districts had declared themselves free. In Odisha and West Bengal, over 60% of the districts were yet to report their respective status.

Uttar Pradesh, which had the highest number of manual scavengers (32,473) in two surveys conducted till 2018, has nearly 90% districts reporting to be free of manual scavenging.

Top Ministry officials said that each district was being asked to either declare itself free of manual scavenging or point out locations of insanitary latrines and associated manual scavenging. "The district sanitation committees look at data of whether there are insanitary latrines and based on this extrapolate whether manual scavenging exists or not."

Since the launch of the Swachata mobile app in 2016, more than 6,000 complaints have been examined by the Ministry for possible signs of manual scavenging. "But not one complaint was substantiated in all this time," one senior official said.

As government data show that deaths due to hazardous cleaning of sewers and septic tanks continue, the Ministry has decided that its principal focus will be to address this problem, with officials saying the NAMASTE scheme had been launched for this purpose.

"This is why now the focus is to ask municipalities and civic bodies to ensure no hazardous cleaning takes place. And if it takes place, the responsibility should be placed on the employer," another senior official said.

According to data released by the government in Parliament in 2021, over 90% of manual scavengers identified in the surveys till 2018, were from the Scheduled Caste communities.

India will be among top-3 economies in NDA's third term: PM

Narendra Modi acknowledges the crowd at the inauguration of the IECC complex at Pragati Maidan in New Delhi. PTI

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

With less than a year to go for the Lok Sabha election, Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Wednesday said he guaranteed that in the National Democratic Alliance's third term in government from 2024, India would be among the top three economies of the world.

"In our first term, India was 10th in world economy rankings. In the second term, it is the fifth largest economy of the world. Based on this track record, I am saying that in our third term it will be among the top three economies of the world. This is Modi's guarantee," the Prime Minister said after inaugurating a redeveloped ITPO complex in the national capital which would be the venue for the G-20 leaders' summit in September.

The complex has now been named Bharat Mandapam. Mr. Modi said the new venue showcased India's new energy and will power.

"During the COVID-19 pandemic, when all work had stopped, our workers toiled day and night to complete this project," he said. "I salute all workers from the core of my heart."

The Prime Minister had met all workers in the morning before which he had conducted a special *havan* at the venue.

He said a convention centre of such scale in Delhi was important for India as the earlier one which had been made several decades ago was not able to match up to 21st century India. This would be a medium to showcase our startups and the work of our filmmakers and would also be a platform for our craftsmen.

He said the Bharat Mandapam would promote conference tourism and the world would witness the rising stature of India when the venue hosts the G-20 summit.

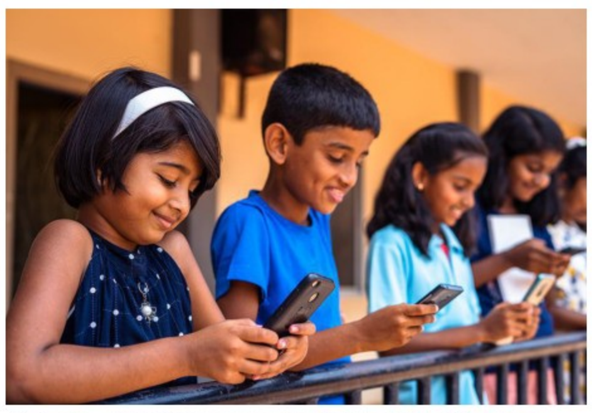
The inauguration was attended by Union Ministers, leading industrialists, chiefs of trade and commerce bodies and others.

UNESCO endorses banning smartphones in schools

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) has warned against an uncritical rush toward embrace of digital products in educational settings, noting that "there is little robust evidence on digital technology's added value in education" and that "a lot of the evidence comes from those trying to sell it". It cited the example of how "Pearson funded its own studies, contesting independent analysis that showed its products had no impact". At the same time, there was ample evidence of a negative link between excessive screen time and a child's educational performance and emotional stability, it said.

The UN body's Global Education Monitoring Report, 2023, titled "Technology in education: a tool on whose terms?", has endorsed banning smartphones in schools in situations where "technology integration does not improve learning or if it worsens student well-being". It highlighted that "mere proximity to a mobile device was found to distract students and to have a negative impact on learning in 14 countries, yet less than one in four have banned smartphone use in schools". It also cited research studies to point out that "banning mobile phones from schools improves academic performance, especially for low-performing students".



Study shows that higher screen time is associated with poorer well-being and less curiosity, self-control and stability. GETTY IMAGES

Detailing the rationale for restricting smartphone usage for children, the report cited a study of young people between the ages of two and 17 which "showed that higher screen time was associated with poorer well-being; less curiosity, self-control and emotional stability; higher anxiety; and depression diagnoses".

The report also flagged the higher costs of delivering basic education where there is a dependence on the setting up of digital infrastructure, and how this could worsen the problem of unequal access in low-income countries. "Technology is often bought to plug a gap, with no view to the long-term costs for national budgets. The cost of moving to basic digital learning in low-income countries and connecting all schools to the Internet in lower-middle-income countries would add 50% to their current financing gap for achieving national SDG 4 targets," the report stated.

Another major concern around the indiscriminate use of digital technology in education was children's privacy. "Children's data are being exposed, yet only 16% of countries explicitly guarantee data privacy in education by law. One analysis found that 89% of 163 education technology products recommended during the pandemic could survey children. Further, 39 of 42 governments providing online education during the pandemic fostered uses that risked or infringed on children's rights," the report said.

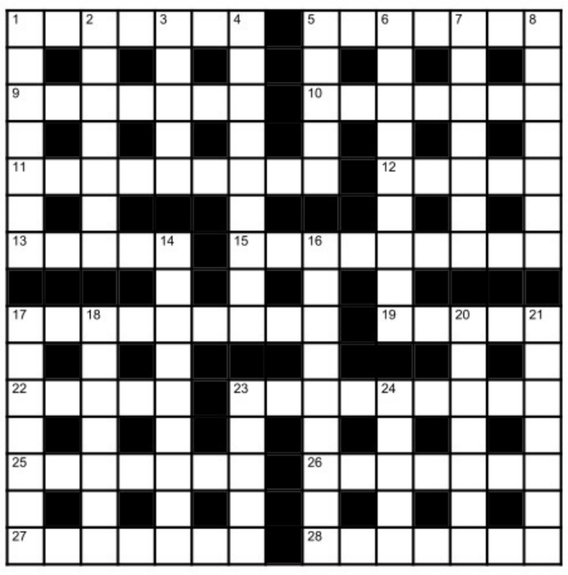
Urging governments to "putting learners first" when it came to decisions on the use of digital technology, the report urged policymakers to ensure child data protection laws and accountability mechanisms tailored to children.

TH CROSSWORD + 13928

(set by Avtaar)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Label referencing topic of volcanic dust that regularly pervades Mercury (7)
5 Expert involved in reform is threatened (7)
9 Avtaar is given a certain amount (7)
10 Every other lioness circling approach, turned to the centre (7)
11 I, for one, would be leading a trial (5,4)
12 Skirts of blue with 50% in maroon - extraordinary colour (5)
13 Adult grouse is caught (5)
15 Offer fixed reduction (9)
17 Nanny's song spiced up with raunchy verse (9)
19 Sum up on Excel (5)
22 Star Wars-like detailed, specific training called off (3-2)
23 Short girl with a lamb in tow holding sign near junction (9)
25 L'il badly treated ? (3-4)
26 Boat loaded with two-centuries-old narcotic leaves (7)
27 Meet a female model in retreat when visiting Sicily on vacation (7)
28 Hampered bishop pair stuck in corner on right side of board (7)

Down

1 Meat and refreshments recalled in European city (7)
2 Fake and mostly substandard cleanser (7)
3 Heartless cook quitting? Lorry driver is more loyal (5)
4 Endearing cocktail ingredient (9)
5 Corn I planted in jungle (5)
6 Reform of Brown eschewing Utopian Leftist axioms, basically (3,6)
7 Animal bone and egg kept in California for all to see (7)
8 Justify Republican taking over from Democrat in bank (7)
14 I will always be her first love, perhaps? (9)
16 Tense set livened up light international contest (4,5)
17 Pass drinks slowly savouring society's scandals (7)
18 Small vessel, very close to the bay (7)
20 Break large section of a church that is separated (7)
21 Board's director holding up work at court (7)
23 Young British naval officer in Malaysia entertains retired inspector and daughter (5)
24 Ancient royal article turned up with old British coin (5)

SUDOKU

2	9				3	4		
			9	7				6
		1		6	4			
		7	4				8	
		2				3		
	3				8	6		
			5	4		7		
1				8	9			
		4	7				3	5

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

No.SS5870 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

B	E	A	N	F	E	A	S	T
I	■	L	■	A	■	D	■	I
A	T	T	A	I	N	M	E	N
S	■	O	■	N	■	I	■	T
■	■	■	S	T	O	R	M	Y
G	■	F	■	H	■	E	■	P
R	O	E	D	E	E	R	■	E
E	■	L	■	A	■	■	■	C
A	L	L	E	R	G	Y	■	H
T	■	O	■	T	■	U	■	A
N	E	W	Z	E	A	L	A	N
I	■	S	■	D	■	E	■	D
E	C	H	O	■	B	L	A	C
C	■	I	■	■	■	O	■	A
E	S	P	Y	■	A	G	G	R

S	■	U	F	O	S	■	■	■
L	■	■	■	L	■	H	■	■
E	N	T	■	D	E	L	I	■
T	■	D	■	U	■	L	■	■
E	T	R	E	L	■	■	■	■
L	■	D	■	E	■	■	■	■
E	P	I	G	E	A	L	■	■
C	■	L	■	A	■	■	■	■
A	R	I	N	G	■	■	■	■
S	■	T	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	N	D	E	R	■	■	■	■
D	■	S	■	Y	■	A	■	■
A	C	K	S	H	E	E	P	■
R	■	E	■	T	■	S	■	■
A	N	D	I	S	E	■	■	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

8	5	7	9	4	1	6	3	2
1	6	3	8	2	5	7	9	4
9	4	2	6	3	7	5	8	1
7	3	8	1	5	4	2	6	9
6	9	5	7	8	2	1	4	3
2	1	4	3	6	9	8	7	5
5	8	6	4	1	3	9	2	7
3	2	9	5	7	6	4	1	8
4	7	1	2	9	8	3	5	6

FAITH

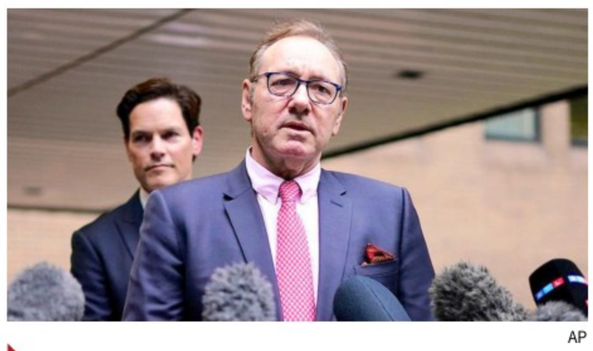
Scent of a devotee

The 63 Nayanmars, Saivite saints, whose lives have been encapsuled in *Periapuranam* by Sekkizhar, have shown us how to remain steadfast in God consciousness. Their lives are a practical guide on how to be a true devotee, even while leading the life of a regular householder, replete with worries and earthly concerns. It is to highlight this aspect of true faith that Lord Siva often sported with his servitors, testing them to the hilt, as he did with his devotee Kungiliya Kalaya Nayanar (Kalayanar), said P. Swaminathan in a discourse.

In the world we live in, there is plenty of discord between couples, especially on money matters. However, Kalayanar, who was born in a rich family in Tirukkadaiyur near Mayiladuthurai, married a like-minded woman. He spent endless amount of money in feting Sivan *adiyars* and procuring *kungiliyam*, a kind of incense which dispersed heavenly fragrance when lit. Offering it to Amrutaghateswar, the presiding deity, with utmost devotion, his mind was always focused on Siva. His children too were raised to follow in his footsteps, and the Lord tested him, to showcase Kalayanar's faith. The devout man's fortune was spent and on the verge of starvation, Kalayanar's wife offered her gold chain with the *mangalsutra*, to buy provisions for the family. Distraught over his inability to offer *kungiliyam* to Siva and food to his children, Kalayanar came across a seller of the incense and immediately spent the gold on its purchase, his family and children forgotten. He rushed to the temple and thanked Siva for His kindness. The Lord restored Kalayanar's fortunes and blessed the devotee's family with everlasting wealth.

LONDON

Kevin Spacey acquitted of sexual offence charges in London trial

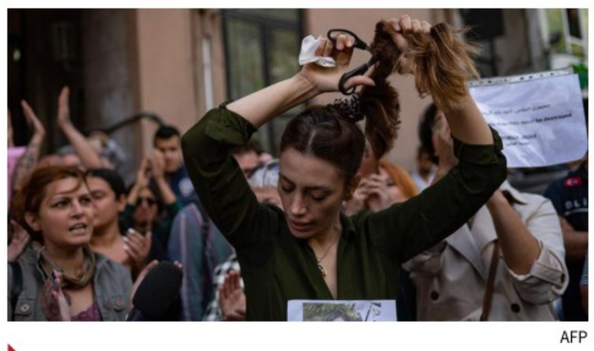


AP

U.S. actor Kevin Spacey was found not guilty on Wednesday by a jury at a London court of committing historical sex offences against four men. The 64-year-old Oscar-winner was acquitted of nine charges, including sexual assault, and causing a person to engage in penetrative sexual activity without consent. REUTERS

PARIS

Iran enforcing 'intensified' hijab crackdown: Amnesty International



AFP

Iranian authorities have since April launched an intensified crackdown against women deemed to have violated the Islamic republic's strict dress rules, Amnesty International said on Wednesday. It also noted that police announced the return of patrols enforcing compulsory veiling across the country. AFP

DUBLIN

Sinead O'Connor, acclaimed Irish pop singer, dies aged 56

AP

Irish singer Sinead O'Connor, who shot to fame in the 1990s with the song "Nothing Compares 2 U", has died at the age of 56, media said on Wednesday. O'Connor crashed onto the global music scene with her mesmerising version of the song originally written by Prince, a video that has been viewed 400 million times on YouTube. REUTERS

SINGAPORE

Indian-origin former Minister in Singapore opens presidential bid

PTI

Singapore's former Indian-origin minister Tharman Shanmugaratnam formally launched his presidential campaign on Wednesday and pledged to evolve the country's culture to keep it a "shining spot". The official launch comes more than a month after Mr. Tharman first announced that he will run for President. PTI

China scrubs ex-Minister Qin Gang's past in hint of purge

Foreign Ministry declines to provide any information about the reasons behind Qin's removal; spokesperson says she has no additional details other than what *Xinhua* has published

Ananth Krishnan

A day on after the unprecedented removal of Chinese Foreign Minister Qin Gang from his post after an unexplained 30-day public absence and only seven months into his stint, the Foreign Ministry scrubbed all information about the Minister from its website.

Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning in a daily briefing in Beijing declined to provide any information about the reasons behind Mr. Qin's removal. The Foreign Ministry last month said the former Minister missed attending meetings in Jakarta because of health reasons.

Since then, however, the Ministry has made no mention of Mr. Qin's health, and within hours of his removal, the official website overnight deleted all past engagements and speeches of Mr. Qin from its online records, a complete scrubbing of the kind usually reserved only for disgraced officials.

"The MFA site deletions would seem to discount continued speculation among some experts on Tuesday that Qin Gang's absence and now removal might still be due to serious health issues. Even if health issues had necessitated Mr. Qin's removal as Foreign Minister, there is no reason this would lead to the deletion of the past record of his meetings within the MFA site," noted the China Media Project, which tracks Chinese media and politics.

Official version: China's Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning attending a press conference in Beijing on Wednesday. REUTERS

The Ministry's daily briefing shed no light on the still murky political developments, with spokesperson Mao Ning repeatedly pointing reporters to the brief one-line announcement of Mr. Qin's removal from Tuesday evening released by the official *Xinhua* news agency.

"*Xinhua* has already published information. You can refer to that," Ms. Mao said to one question. She added that she had "no additional information" in response to several other questions, but stressed that China's "diplomatic activities are all advancing steadily".

While there were more than a dozen questions about the still missing Foreign Minister at the briefing, the official transcript released later on Wednesday evening had removed all questions relating to Mr. Qin from the record.

Mr. Qin on Wednesday was, however, still listed as a State Councilor in the Cabinet and as a member of the party Central Committee, leading some observers to suggest his removal as Foreign Minister might signal the start of a political investigation, with further measures possible once it runs its course in coming months.

Following his surprise appointment in December, Mr. Qin, 57, had been widely tipped to dominate China's foreign policy apparatus for the coming decade, because of his proximity to leader Xi Jinping. After a stint as Mr. Xi's protocol officer, he was handpicked to serve in Washington for his first ambassadorial posting, before returning to be appointed Foreign Minister ahead of more senior colleagues. For Mr. Xi to decide to remove a once trusted confidante would, observers suggested, indicate an extraordinary and unprecedented political scandal.

While those questions remain unresolved, Mr. Qin's predecessor Wang Yi, 69, has for now been tasked with running the affairs of the ministry having taken additional charge as Foreign Minister.

Thailand's ex-PM readies return during political row

Associated Press
BANGKOK

As Thailand grapples with the unexpectedly difficult task of naming a new Prime Minister, the most controversial former holder of the job, billionaire populist Thaksin Shinawatra, plans to return home next month from years of self-imposed exile, his daughter announced on Wednesday.

Mr. Thaksin's planned August 10 return, confirmed by his daughter, comes at a politically sensitive time, as the Pheu Thai party, regarded as the main vehicle for his political interests, is seeking to win enough support in Parliament to have one of its leaders become Thailand's 30th Prime Minister.

Cambodian PM Hun Sen to step down after 4 decades

Agence France-Presse
PHNOM PENH

Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, one of the world's longest-serving leaders, said on Wednesday he will resign and hand power to his eldest son after almost four decades of hardline rule.

The former Khmer Rouge cadre has run the kingdom since 1985, eliminating all opposition to his power, with rival parties banned, challengers forced to flee and freedom of expression stifled.

His Cambodian People's Party (CPP) won a landslide victory in an election on Sunday with no meaningful opposition, taking 82% of the vote, paving the way for a dynastic succession to his eldest son.

Election authorities disqualified the only serious challenger, the Candlelight Party, on a technicality ahead of the election.

Dynastic succession: Hun Sen, left, with his son Hun Manet. AFP

The government hailed the 84.6% voter turnout as evidence of the country's "democratic maturity" but Western powers, including the United States and the European Union, condemned the poll as neither free nor fair.

The UN's human rights chief Volker Turk added his own criticism on Wednesday, saying Opposition parties and media had faced "restrictions and reprisals" aimed at hindering free elections.

Mr. Hun Sen said Hun Manet, a 45-year-old four-star general, would take over as Prime Minister at the head of a new government on the evening of August 22.

Biden's son, Hunter, pleads not guilty

Agence France-Presse
WILMINGTON

U.S. President Joe Biden's son, Hunter, 53, pleaded not guilty to minor tax offences on Wednesday as a deal with federal prosecutors derailed in a Delaware court.

Hunter Biden was charged last month with two misdemeanour tax crimes of failure to pay more than $100,000 in taxes from over $1.5 million in income in both 2017 and 2018, and he was expected to plead guilty after he made an agreement with prosecutors.

Blinken visits Tonga; slams China's actions

Associated Press
WELLINGTON

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken visited the tiny kingdom of Tonga on Wednesday, as the United States continues to increase its diplomatic efforts in the Pacific while China's influence in the region grows.

Mr. Blinken dedicated a new U.S. Embassy in Tonga, which opened two months ago, and praised the return of Peace Corps volunteers following the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Antony Blinken

Blinken told reporters he had concerns about China's actions in the region including some "predatory" economic activities, its assertion of "unlawful" maritime claims and an increased focus on militarisation.

Taiwan holds its first Army drill at airport

Agence France-Presse
TAOYUAN

Taiwan staged its first-ever military drill at Taoyuan International Airport on Wednesday, briefly halting commercial traffic as soldiers practised defending the facility against a simulated attack by Beijing.

The exercise is part of Taiwan's week-long massive wargames – the annual "Han Kuang" (Han Glory) drills – which this year has included protecting civilian airports as Beijing ramps up military and political pressures on the island.

Israel's top court to hear petitions against first part of contentious judicial overhaul

Associated Press
JERUSALEM

Israel's highest court said on Wednesday that it would hear petitions in September against a divisive law weakening its power that the country's Parliament passed earlier this week.

Israeli civil society groups and others have filed petitions asking the Supreme Court to strike down the law enacted on Monday – the first major piece of legislation in Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's broader program to overhaul Israel's judiciary.

Civil unrest

The far-right government's plans to limit judicial power have plunged Israel into its worst domestic crisis in years, unleashing widespread unrest and exposing the country's deep social fissures.

Critics of the overhaul describe it as a blow to democracy, arguing that Israel's judiciary represents the primary check on the powers of Parliament and Prime Minister. Mr. Netanyahu's supporters say the law will prevent liberal, unelected judges from interfering with the decisions of elected lawmakers.

Hundreds of thousands of Israelis have poured into the streets to protest against the plan for the past seven months. While protests continue, opponents are also taking their fight to the Supreme Court – the very target of Mr. Netanyahu's overhaul plans – hoping that justices will intervene.

INBRIEF

Qatar Sovereign Wealth Fund said to invest in Reliance Retail

The Qatar Investment Authority (QIA), the country's sovereign wealth fund, is considering investing in Mukesh Ambani's Reliance Retail Ventures Limited (RRVL), the London-based Financial Times reported. QIA is looking to invest about $1 billion for an approximately 1% stake in the retail giant, the newspaper said, citing three anonymous sources. Reliance Industries Limited (RIL) owns an 85% stake in RRVL, which is run by Mr. Ambani's daughter Isha.

Shanthi Gears Q1 net rises 35% to ₹18 crore on higher sales

Murugappa Group company Shanthi Gears Ltd. (SGL) reported standalone net profit for the June quarter rose 35% to ₹18 crore on increased sales volume. Total revenue increased 24% to ₹124 crore, the manufacturer of gear and gear products said in a regulatory filing. SGL said it continued to focus on four key priorities - revenue growth, profitability, return on invested capital (ROIC) and free cash flow (FCF) and delivered strong performance on all these areas.

Centre proposes to sell up to 5.36% in Rail Vikas Nigam

The Union government will sell a stake of up to 5.36% in state-owned Rail Vikas Nigam this week, in a deal that could fetch ₹13.3 billion ($162.12 million), an exchange filing showed on Wednesday. The government, which owns a 78.2% stake in RVNL, has proposed to sell a 3.4% holding in the state-run railway infrastructure company, with an option to sell 1.96% more if oversubscribed. The floor price for the sale has been set at ₹119 per share. REUTERS

Go First can fly leased planes: NCLT

The insolvency court rejects pleas from six aircraft lessors including a demand for barring Go First from using their aircraft; An order restraining the resolution professional from using the aircraft would amount to corporate death, the NCLT adds

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The National Company Law Tribunal on Wednesday rejected six aircraft lessors' pleas, which included demands for barring Go First from using their aircraft as well as allowing leasing firms to appoint an inspector to examine the aircraft, engines and other parts.

The insolvency court, which had admitted Go First's plea seeking insolvency resolution on May 10, maintained that an order restraining the resolution professional (RP) from using the aircraft would amount to "corporate death of the corporate debtor, leaving no scope for resolution of the corporate debtor" as the sole essence of its business would be taken away.

It added the DGCA had not deregistered the aircraft, which were therefore available for use by Go First. The court also said that its May 10 order, which said that it was the duty of the interim resolution professional to ensure the airline was a going concern, requires that the aircraft have to be flown.

Lessors' locked out

NCLT rejects pleas from aircraft lessors to stop Go First from using their aircraft

- The insolvency court said DGCA had not deregistered the aircraft, which therefore can be used by Go First
- NCLT noted it was the duty of the interim resolution professional to ensure the airline was a going concern
- The only relief granted to lessors was on their plea seeking protection and maintenance of aircraft

'DGCA did not deregister aircraft, so airline can use them'

'Impede resolution'

On the issue of allowing lessors to appoint an agency or inspectors to scrutinise the aircraft, the court said that it would amount to an "impediment to the effective discharge of the duties of the resolution professional," who had already been instructed to maintain the aircraft.

Sole relief

The only relief that was granted to lessors was on their plea seeking protection and maintenance of aircraft and engines where the tribunal reiterated that it was the RP's responsibility to do so.

The tribunal also noted that the termination notices issued by leasing companies after the airline approached the NCLT seeking insolvency resolution was to evade the moratorium it had granted under which the airline was given protection against any adverse action from lessors and creditors.

On July 5, the Delhi High Court had passed an interim order on the pleas of another eight aircraft lessors and allowed them to carry out both inspection and interim maintenance tasks on their aircraft twice a month.

Axis Bank Q1 net rises 40% to ₹5,797 cr. as bad loans dip

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Axis Bank posted a 40.5% rise in standalone net profit to ₹5,797 crore in the April-June quarter, mainly due to a drop in bad loans and improvement in interest income.

Total income rose to ₹30,644 crore from ₹21,657 crore, Axis Bank said in a filing. Net Interest Income grew 27% to ₹11,959 crore and Net Interest Margin to 4.10% (3.6%). Net NPAs slid to 0.41% from 0.64%.

India's space industry can reach $100 bn by 2040: Arthur D. Little

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

India's space industry is expected to touch $40 billion by 2040 and with the right strategies could tap into a $100 billion market opportunity, consulting firm Arthur D. Little observed in a report titled "India in Space: A $100 billion industry by 2040".

"The Indian space industry is on the cusp of a major transformation with increasing government expenditure on space, rapidly growing investment in the country's private space sector, and government policies encouraging commercial space ventures," said Barnik Chitran Maitra, Managing Partner, India & South Asia.

Barnik Chitran Maitra

"India presents a very lucrative market with many opportunities for private players, and the Indian Space Research Organisation is a great ambassador for India," he added.

The consulting firm suggests India should encourage satellite Internet services, leverage its strengths in satellite and launch vehicle manufacturing, and develop capabilities in high-potential sectors while exploring space tourism and 'green space.'

"India can position itself as a global powerhouse in the space industry, driving innovation... and international collaborations."

Headwinds impact TechM's profitability

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Tech Mahindra reported a net profit of ₹693 crore for the quarter ended June 2023, a 38% decline compared with ₹1,131 crore it posted in the corresponding period last year.

"This quarter was a challenging one for us as revenue growth faced strong headwinds and that had an impact on profitability," said Rohit Anand, Chief Financial Officer, Tech Mahindra.

Rane Madras Q1 net plunges 85% as sales to OE clients dip

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

Rane (Madras) Ltd. reported standalone net profit for the June quarter plunged by 85% to ₹3 crore following a decline in sales to Indian original equipment (OE) customers and a one-time exceptional item.

The results included a provision of ₹18.75 crore towards warranty-related costs. Total revenue grew by 6% to ₹532 crore.

RML sustained sales momentum albeit decline in volume in the farm tractor segment, said Group Chairman L. Ganesh. The board decided to divest/dispose of its wholly owned U.S. subsidiary Rane Light Metal Casting owing to changes in market conditions.

BPCL turns Q1 net profit of ₹10,644 cr.

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Bharat Petroleum Corporation Ltd. (BPCL) reported it turned a consolidated first-quarter net profit of ₹10,644 crore, from a loss of ₹6,148 crore in the year-earlier period on better performance of refining and marketing operations.

Standalone net profit for the first quarter of FY24 was ₹10,551 crore, compared with a loss of ₹6,263 crore in the year-earlier April-June period.

Standalone revenue from operations declined to ₹1,28,257 crore, from ₹1,38,390 crore in the same quarter last year.

The company's gross refining margins for the quarter was $12.64/bbl, as compared with $27.51/bbl in the year-earlier period.

In the quarter ended June 30, the throughput was 10.36 MMT compared with 9.69 MMT in the year-earlier period. Market sales was 12.75 MMT in Q1 FY24, an increase of 8.42%, the company said.

"The excellent financial results are mainly attributable to stellar performance in refining and marketing businesses supported by a favourable crude oil price regime," said Vetsa Rama Krishna Gupta, Director (Finance).

Poonawalla sells PHFL stake for ₹3,004 crore

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

NBFC Poonawalla Fincorp Ltd. (PFL) said it has transferred controlling stake in housing finance arm Poonawalla Housing Finance Ltd. (PHFL) to Perseus SG Pte. Ltd. for ₹3,004 crore.

"With this, PHFL has ceased to be a subsidiary of PFL and Perseus SG Pte. Ltd. now holds the controlling equity stake in PHFL," the company said.

"We get ample growth capital, which will continue to keep us focused on achieving our Vision 2025," said PFL MD Abhay Bhutada. "We will continue to focus on consumer and MSME [segments] and build a tech-led, digital first retail-lending franchise."

Dr. Reddy's Q1 net up 18% on robust sales

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Dr. Reddy's Laboratories' consolidated net profit rose more than 18% year-on-year for the quarter ended June to ₹1,405 crore, primarily on the back of higher sales in key markets for its generics as well as new product launches and a moderation in price erosion.

The higher net profit came on a 29% increase in total revenue from operations to ₹6,757.9 crore (₹5,232.9 crore). Total income at ₹6,931.9 crore (₹6,086.8 crore) witnessed an increase of nearly 14%, according to results prepared as per the Indian Accounting Standards.

"We delivered strong sales growth and witnessed robust margin expansion driven by market share gains and new product momentum in our U.S. generics business and superior performance in Russia," MD G.V. Prasad said in a release.

TI arm floats firm to make small e-CVs

N. Anand
CHENNAI

M. A. M. Arunachalam

Tl Clean Mobility Pvt. Ltd. (TICMPL) said it has incorporated a wholly owned arm – Tivolt Electric Vehicles Pvt. Ltd. – to broaden product portfolio in the productive end of EVs.

The move would enable TICMPL to make small electric commercial vehicles (e-SCV), sources said.

With the addition of e-SCVs, TICMPL would be in a position to offer end-to-end mobility solutions to enterprises and logistic firms across intercity, intracity and last-mile applications, Chairman M. A. M. Arunachalam had said.

On July 3, TICMPL entered into an agreement with the MD of Jayem Automotives Pvt. Ltd. to float the arm in which the Murugappa group would hold 80%. TICMPL would be investing ₹160 crore and Jayem Auto MD Jayachandran Anand ₹40 crore in the new company.

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED, Churu
Aapni Yojna Campus, Bhaleri Road, Churu (Raj)
Tel 01562-251415, e-mail- acephedchuru@gmail.com
No. 1428-1469 Dated:- 21-07-2023

Corrigendum NO. 01 For this office NIT NO. 06/2023-24

Corrigendum NO. 01 for this office NIT NO. 06/2023-24 (UBN is: PHE2324WLOB4508 & Tender ID 2023_PHCJA_349015_1) may be visited on the procurement portal ttp://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.

SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE

(Rajeev Gurtu)
Add. Chief Engineer (P)
DIPR/C/10939 PHED, Project Region Churu

Office of the Additional Chief Engineer (Project) PHED, Churu
Aapni Yojna Campus, Bhaleri Road, Churu (Raj)
Tel 01562-251415, e-mail- acephedchuru@gmail.com
No. 1518-1559 Dated:- 24-07-2023

Corrigendum NO. 02 For this office Short Term NIT NO. 07/2023-24

Corrigendum NO. 02 for this office NIT NO. 07/2023-24 (UBN is: PHE2324WLOB4515 & Tender ID 2023_PHCJA_349028_1) may be visited on the procurement portal ttp://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in.

SAVE WATER-SAVE LIFE

(Rajeev Gurtu)
Add. Chief Engineer (P)
DIPR/C/10940 PHED, Project Region Churu

OFFICE OF ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER, WATER RESOURCES ZONE, BANSWARA
Mahi Colony, Udaipur Road, Banswara (Rajasthan) 327001
Email:- acewrbsw@gmail.com

No. ACE/WR/Actt./2023/924 Dated:- 24.07.2023

SHORT TERM E-NIT No. 10/2023-24

Bids for the works mentioned below are invited from interested bidders upto dated **27.07.2023 till 06:00 PM**

S. No.	Name of work	Bid Cost (Lakh)
1	Construction of Solor Based Lift Irrigation System (Sprinkler) At Ratanpura Anicut (Anandpuri) of GP Ratanpura Tehsil Anandpuri District Banswaea	1635.30
2	Construction of Tidiyadev MST And Solar Based Lift Irrigation System (Sprinkler) At Tidiyadev MST GP Timbamahundi Tehsil Sajjangarh District Banswara	1042.52

Other particulars of bid may be visited on the Procurement portal http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in, www.dipr.rajasthan.gov.in & www.water.rajasthan.gov.in/wrd
UBN:- 1. WRD2324WLOB00770
2. WRD2324WLOB00772

Additional Chief Engineer
DIPR/C/10952/23 Water Resources Zone, Banswara

Government of Rajasthan
Minority Affairs Department
Rajasthan Madarsa Board, Jaipur
Dr. S. Radha Krishnan Shiksha Sankul, JLN Marg, Jaipur
Ph. No. 0141-2702477, 2702528
E-mail: rajmadarsaboard@gmail.com,
Website. www.rajmadarsa.org

No.F-4(130) RMB Store Sports Item2018-19 Dated: 29.07.2019

E-Bid Notice No. 5/2023-24 **UBN No. RMB2324GLOB00005**

E-Bids are invited on behalf of the Governor of Rajasthan from Manufacturers/Authorised dealer for the following items:-

E-Bid No.	Name of Item	Estimated Quantity in Units	Estimated Cost (in Lacs Rs.)
1	Uniform (All Type of Garments) Per Male Students (02 Shirts & 02 Pants) OR Per Female Students (02 Shirts & 02 Salwar and Dupatta)	207242	1534.00

Last Date for submission of E-Bid 07-08-2023. Details may be seen at the website of the State Public Procurement Portal http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in or our website http:www.minority.rajasthan.gov.in/madarsa board itemwise e-Bid form may be seen & downloaded from website http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in.

(SM Shah)
DIPR/C/10710/2023 Secretary

कार्यालय जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर
क्रमांक :-जोविप्रा/23-24/HQ/1025 दिनांक :- 20/07/2023
ई - निविदा सूचना संख्या - मुख्यालय/10/2023-24
जोधपुर विकास प्राधिकरण, जोधपुर की ओर से प्राधिकरण एवं राजकीय विभाग में नियमानुसार उपयुक्त श्रेणी में पंजीकृत संवेदको से Online NIT आमंत्रित की जाती है। इन कार्य की अनुमानित लागत, निविदा बेचे जाने तथा प्राप्त करने की दिनांक, निविदा शर्ते आदि सम्पूर्ण विवरण वेबसाईट **www.jodhpurjda.org, www.eproc.rajasthan.gov.in,** एवं **www.sppp.raj.nic.in** पर देखी जा सकती हैं।
UBN No. :- JOD2324WSOB00143
राज.संवाद/सी/23/6328 अधिशाषी अभियंता

THE RAJASTHAN SMALL INDUSTRIES CORPORATION LTD.
(A Government of Rajasthan Undertaking) UdyogBhawan, Tilak Marg, C-Scheme, Jaipur-302 005 Phone: 0141-2227079, Fax: 0141-2227257
Website: http://industries.rajasthan.gov.in/rajsico
E-mail:rajsico@rajasthan.gov.in CIN- U91110RJ1961SGC001118
File No. :- F8(21) RSIC/EIS/ICDJPR/2023-24/2403 Date :- 19/07/2023
NOTICE INVITING BIDS
RSIC invites online Bids for procurement of services of "Strategic Business promoter to Equip, Operate, Manage &Transfer Business Services At ICD Jaipur from the eligible and experienced bidders" up to 5.00 PM dated 10.08.2023. Other particulars of the bid may be visited on the procurement portal (**https://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, https://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**) of the state.
The approximate value of the procurement is INR 20 Crores.
UBN RSI202324SLOB00016
Raj.Samwad/C/23/6326 Managing Director

KERALA MEDICAL SERVICES CORPORATION LTD
(DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE, GOVT. OF KERALA)
Head Office : Thycaud, Thiruvananthapuram-14,
(Telephone No. 0471-2337353, FAX No. 0471-3045647),
E-mail : edrugs@kmscl.kerala.gov.in,
website : www.kmscl.kerala.gov.in, CIN No. U24233KL2007SGC021616
No.KMSCL/ED/29/2023 Date: 26.07.2023
E- TENDER NOTICE
Online bids are invited for the procurement of Insecticides for National Vector Borne Disease Control Programme vide e-tender no KMSCL/ED/INS-NVBDCP&PLAN/RC/2023/012 dated 26.07.2023 for Department of Health & Family Welfare, Govt. of Kerala.

Sl. No.	Name of Item	Last Date & time of Uploading of tender	Date & time of Technical Bid opening
1.	CYPHENOTHRIN IS: No. 15979:2012 - 5% EC	16.08.23 5.00 pm.	21.08.2023 11.30 am.
2.	TEMEPHOS - 50% EC IS: 8498:1977		
3.	LEMON GRASS OIL (Citronella oil)		

Tender documents can be downloaded from the website www.etenders.kerala.gov.in.
(Sd/-) MANAGING DIRECTOR (Tender Inviting Authority)

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	WEDNESDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	66,707	0.53
US Dollar	82.01	-0.15
Gold	60,350	0.24
Brent oil	83.45	-0.05

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2470.75	4.10
Adani Ports	752.65	3.40
Apollo Hosp	5155.75	-56.45
Asian Paints	3373.00	-27.40
Axis Bank	976.80	14.30
Bajaj Auto	4870.45	21.50
Bajaj Finserv	1626.45	-22.40
Bajaj Finance	7433.15	-173.30
Bharti Airtel	889.40	5.75
BPCL	387.20	0.80
Britannia Ind	4983.60	98.00
Cipla	1068.50	13.75
Coal India	230.50	0.55
Divis Lab	3680.45	-38.95
Dr Reddys Lab	5475.65	50.25
Dummy - Jio Financial Services Ltd.	261.85	0.00
Eicher Motors	3353.65	27.45
Grasim Ind	1839.10	10.05
HCL Tech	1115.00	3.45
HDFC Bank	1690.70	-5.90
HDFC Life	658.60	6.80
Hero MotoCorp	3145.70	5.40
Hindalco	449.00	-0.50
Hind Unilever	2583.30	15.15
ICICI Bank	996.45	1.75
IndusInd Bank	1427.70	12.25
Infosys	1348.85	14.25
ITC	472.25	9.95
JSW Steel	805.45	4.90
Kotak Bank	1895.30	19.80
L&T	2646.25	85.35
LTIMindtree Ltd.	4860.55	-8.10
M&M	1544.85	-20.90
Maruti Suzuki	9756.35	-2.25
NestleIndia	22799.90	27.00
NTPC	201.60	0.95
ONGC	172.95	-0.05
PowerGrid Corp	251.00	-0.15
Reliance Ind	2526.20	40.40
SBI Life	1292.65	-8.45
State Bank	615.15	5.55
Sun Pharma	1112.00	16.95
TataConsumerProduct	873.90	5.35
Tata Motors	641.10	1.65
Tata Steel	119.95	0.70
TCS	3388.30	-10.85
Tech Mahindra	1143.20	-13.30
Titan	3008.35	-20.65
UltraTech Cement	8352.35	-40.95
UPL	631.90	5.90
Wipro	402.75	2.35

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on July 26

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	81.80	82.12
Euro	90.57	90.93
British Pound	105.61	106.03
Japanese Yen (100)	58.28	58.51
Chinese Yuan	11.43	11.48
Swiss Franc	94.85	95.23
Singapore Dollar	61.62	61.86
Canadian Dollar	61.90	62.15
Malaysian Ringitt	17.97	18.06
Australian Dollar	55.23	55.45

Source:Indian Bank

MAGNIFICENT SEVEN

Malaysian seamer Syazrul Idrus records best men's T20I figures

Malaysia seamer Syazrul Idrus become the first male cricketer to take seven wickets in a T20 International when he scalped seven for 8 against China in a T20 WC Asia B Qualifier in Kuala Lumpur on Wednesday. The 32-year-old broke Nigerian Peter Aho's record of six for five against Sierra Leone in 2021. Malayasia won by eight wickets.

MIXED LUCK

Indian women fight back for draw against England; men lose to Spain

The Indian women's hockey team registered a draw against England in its opening game of the 100th Anniversary Spanish Hockey Federation international tournament in Terrassa on Wednesday. Lalremsiami (41st minute) and Holly Hunt (7th) scored. On Tuesday, the men's team began its campaign with a 1-2 loss to Spain despite a spirited fight.

KEPT OUT

Russia and Belarus omitted from Paris Olympics invitees

The IOC nternational Olympic Committee president Thomas Bach on Wednesday formally invited 203 countries, but not Russia and Belarus, to participate in the Paris Olympics. The IOC has however left the door open for Russian and Belarusian athletes to compete as neutrals in the 2024 Games without their teams competing.

HISTORIC

Tour de France champ Vingegaard gets rousing reception back home

Jonas Vingegaard made a triumphant return to Denmark on Wednesday following his second successive Tour de France victory, as thousands lined the streets to welcome him home. "Vingegaard!, Vingegaard!, Vingegaard!," echoed from the crowd of tens of thousands gathered in the square outside Copenhagen's city hall.

India builds towards the WC, West Indies hits reset button

Rohit's men will be keen to find the best fit for the No. 4 and second wicketkeeper slots before the mega event; the return of Hetmyer and Thomas will boost the hosts in the three-match ODI series which begins today

INDIA IN WEST INDIES

Press Trust of India
BARBADOS

Suryakumar Yadav will be aiming to improve his 50-over credentials while Ishan Kishan and Sanju Samson are likely to audition for the wicketkeeper's slot when India play a three-match ODI series against the West Indies, beginning here on Thursday.

India will use the series against the West Indies to test out a few players to finalise combinations ahead of the Asia Cup, which will precede the ODI World Cup at home in October-November.

The series presents a crucial opportunity for the likes of Suryakumar, Kishan, Samson, Yuzvendra Chahal and Umran Malik.

Suryakumar, who has not been able to replicate his T20 form in the ODIs, can stake a claim for the number four spot in the absence of injured Shreyas Iyer.

Though he recorded a hat-trick of first ball ducks in the previous series against Australia, the batter is expected to start the series.

K. L. Rahul, who is undergoing rehabilitation after a thigh surgery, will be a strong contender for the number one wicket-keeper's slot when he returns to action. In his absence, both Kishan and Samson have a chance to make a claim for the second wicketkeeper's slot with Risabh Pant unlikely to be fit in time for the World Cup.

Kishan is likely to be the wicketkeeper for the opening ODI.

That leaves Samson and Suryakumar to battle for the remaining spot in the middle order.

The West Indies, who have failed to qualify for the ODI World Cup, will be eyeing a fresh start with the India series.

The return of Shimron Hetmyer and Oshane Thomas will boost the home side.

The teams (from) :
West Indies: Shai Hope (Capt.), Rovman Powell (vice-capt.), Alick Athanaze, Yannic Cariah, Keacy Carty, Dominic Drakes, Shimron Hetmyer, Alzarri Joseph, Brandon King, Kyle Mayers, Gudakesh Motie, Jayden Seales, Romario Shepherd, Kevin Sinclair and Oshane Thomas.

Partners in arms: Given a chance, Kuldeep and Chahal will be eager to recreate the KulCha magic. TWITTER/BCCI

India: Rohit Sharma (Capt.), Hardik Pandya (vice-capt.), Shubman Gill, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Virat Kohli, Suryakumar Yadav, Sanju Samson (wicket-keeper), Ishan Kishan (wk), Shardul Thakur, Ravindra Jadeja, Axar Patel, Yuzvendra Chahal, Kuldeep Yadav, Jaydev Unadkat, Mohd. Siraj, Umran Malik and Mukesh Kumar.

Match starts at 7 p.m. IST.

India-West Indies H2H in ODIs

	Matches	India	West Indies	Tied	NR
Overall	139	70	63	2	4
In West Indies	42	19	20	0	3

The schedule

First ODI: July 27, Barbados	Second ODI: July 29, Barbados	Third ODI: Aug. 1, Trinidad

All matches start at 7 p.m. IST

Anderson a quality bowler and performer: Stokes

THE ASHES

Agence France-Presse
LONDON

England captain Ben Stokes has no doubts over James Anderson keeping his place in an unchanged side for this week's Ashes finale, hailing the veteran seamer as "the greatest fast bowler to play the game".

Stokes was more than happy to have Anderson in his side.

"James Anderson is the greatest fast bowler to play the game and he's still looking as good as he was two years ago," said Stokes at The Oval on Wednesday.

"Although he's not had the impact or the wickets he would have liked to in this series, he's a quality bowler and quality performer."

Stokes admitted to feeling deflated following the Old Trafford washout, after England dominated the game, but insisted morale would not be an issue at The Oval.

Australia captain Pat Cummins insisted on Wednesday that his side remains hugely motivated to complete a long-awaited Ashes series win in England, even though it has already retained the urn.

"I think the good thing is that it's a really similar group to 2019," Cummins said.

"That Manchester (in 2019) was a big win to retain the Ashes. It feels really different here, this group has been really motivated to win the series.

"We know that it wasn't our best week last week and at the end of the game it was a bit of a pat on the back, 'well done, we've retained the Ashes' but really it feels like the job's not done," he added.

Time to deliver: Anderson, who has the backing of skipper Stokes, will be keen to finish the series on a high. REUTERS

The teams:
England: Ben Stokes (Capt.), Ben Duckett, Zak Crawley, Moeen Ali, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Jonny Bairstow (wk), Chris Woakes, Mark Wood, Stuart Broad and James Anderson.
Australia: Pat Cummins (Capt.), David Warner, Usman Khawaja, Marnus Labuschagne, Steve Smith, Travis Head, Mitchell Marsh, Alex Carey (wk), Mitchell Starc, Todd Murphy and Josh Hazlewood.

Match begins at 3.30 p.m. IST.

Shafique hits maiden double ton to hand Pakistan the controls

In his element: Salman's second ton added to Sri Lanka's woes. AFP

Agence France-Presse
COLOMBO

Opener Abdullah Shafique's maiden double century and an unbeaten 132 by Agha Salman put Pakistan in the box seat on Wednesday on day three of the second Test against Sri Lanka.

The tourist reached 563 for five at stumps, leading Sri Lanka by 397 runs in its first innings at Colombo's Sinhalese Sports Club.

Salman and concussion substitute Mohammad Rizwan, on 37, were batting in an unbeaten stand of 95 after Shafique's departure on 201.

Salman played attacking cricket to reinforce Pakistan's new aggressive style in this series and reached his second Test ton with a boundary.

Shafique led the mammoth reply in response to Sri Lanka's 166 as he put on three century stands including a 124-run sixth-wicket partnership with Salman.

Shafique, who began the day on 87, reached 200 in the final session with a single off Asitha Fernando.

The scores: Sri Lanka 166 (D. de Silva 57; A. Ahmed 4/69, N. Shah 3/41) vs Pakistan 563/5 in 132 overs (A. Shafique 201, S. Masood 51, S. Shakeel 57, A. Salman batting 132; Fernando 3/133).
Toss: Sri Lanka.

Marquee Indo-Pak WC clash could be rescheduled

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

The blockbuster India-Pakistan contest in the ODI World Cup could be advanced by a day to Oct. 14 due to the first day of Navratri celebrations in Ahmedabad, a development which may pose logistical issues for the fans. The ICC will need to sit with BCCI to decide on the date change if the need arises.

Aditya is India's 83rd chess GM

Press Trust of India
CHENNAI

Aditya Samant became India's 83rd chess Grandmaster on Wednesday. The 17-year-old Samant turned GM when he started his ninth-round game against compatriot Aryan Chopra at the Biel Chess MTO 2023 tournament. He drew his eighth-round game against Bu Xiangzhi and got to achieve his final GM-norm by merely playing the ninth round.

Dabang tames the Lions, seals top spot in league

In full flow: Sathiyan had the measure of senior pro Sharath, winning with ease. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

UTT

Amol Karhadkar
PUNE

G. Sathiyan's heroics were instrumental in Dabang Delhi finishing the league stage on a high in the Ultimate Table Tennis Season 4 on Wednesday.

Not only did the Delhi franchise avenge the loss suffered in the third edition of the league against Chennai Lions, but also assured itself of the top spot in the first phase and entered the semifinals in style.

Riding on Sathiyan's high-class performance – he wiped out his Chennai and India senior pro A. Sharath Kamal 3-0 – Dabang booked a berth with the last league match – the Maharashtra Derby – to be played on Thursday.

The deciding game between Chennai Lions' rookie Prapti Sen, who got a look in as Sutirtha Mukherjee was rested, and southpaw Barbora Balazova turned out to be a cliffhanger. With both teams tied at 42 points, there was a decider to pick the winner.

Barbora does it
A crucial backhand block followed by a classy backhand top-spin shot by Barbora at 9-9 meant it turned out to be a perfect outing for Sathiyan and Co.

Despite the loss, Lions are all but assured of the second spot. The winner of the U Mumba-Puneri Paltan match will qualify for the semifinals.

The results:
Chennai Lions lost to Dabang Delhi 6-9 (Sharath Kamal lost to G. Sathiyan 10-11, 3-11, 6-11; Yangzi Liu bt Sreeja Akula 11-8, 8-11, 11-8; Sharath & Yangzi lost to Sathiyan & Barbora Balazova 7-11, 6-11, 11-7; Benedikt Duda bt Jon Persson 8-11, 11-6, 11-7; Prapti Sen lost to Balazova 6-11, 11-4, 9-11).
The standings: Dabang Delhi 43 points (5 matches); Chennai Lions 42 (5); Goa Challengers 36 (5); Bengaluru Smashers 35 (5); U Mumba 28 (4); Puneri Paltan 28 (4).
Thursday's fixture: U Mumba vs. Puneri Paltan, 7.30 p.m.

Indian football teams cleared for Asiad

Buoyant: Choubey feels that the players' morale will be boosted by participating in major events. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

The informal discussions and deliberations by Indian football officials seem to have worked with the Sports Ministry officially clearing the men's and women's teams for the Asian Games on Wednesday.

"Good news for Indian football lovers! Our national football teams, both men's and women's, are set to participate in the upcoming Asian Games. The Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India, has decided to relax the rules to facilitate the participation of both teams, which were not qualifying as per the existing criterion. Keeping in mind their latest performances, the Ministry decided to grant the relaxation," Sports Minister Anurag Thakur said in a statement.

The football teams' participation had remained uncertain despite their entries being already sent for the Asiad after IOA president P.T. Usha recently wrote indicating the government rules will be strictly followed. The rules state that for team events, those ranked in the top-eight in Asia will be cleared for the Games. The men are ranked 18th in Asia and the women 11th.

AIFF president Kalyan Choubey, also the acting CEO of IOA, had held meetings with both Home Minister Amit Shah and Thakur trying to find a solution. India had not sent a team in 2018.

INBRIEF

Messi masterclass in Miami's thrashing of Atlanta

Lionel Messi scored two classy first half goals and assisted on another in the second to lead Inter Miami to a 4-0 dismantling of Atlanta United and advance to the knockout stage of the Leagues Cup on Tuesday.

Grass Root registers a narrow win over Satya

Grass Root Academy pipped Satya FC 3-2 in the KSFA Bangalore North & South C-division league in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

Other results: Blue Diamond 5 bt FC Revelation 1; Shubhodaya FC 3 bt Rare Dare FC 1; Hawks United SA 4 bt Black Panthers FC 1..

Pranam and Aryan star for DYES-A with a brace each

A brace each from Pranam Gowda and M.T. Aryan Uthappa helped DYES-A thrash Customs & GST 9-2 in the Hockey Karnataka League Championship in Bengaluru on Wednesday.

The results: DYES-A 9 (Pranam Gowda 11, 30, H.A. Vachan 28, Prajwal Bijwad 32, Deepak Yadav 33, M.K. Bharath 43, Sapan Aiyappa 52, M.T. Aryan Uthappa 53, 55) bt Customs & GST 2 (Advaith Nachappa 25, Chelsea Medappa 50); Canara Bank 3 (K.P. Somaiah 25, 43, Nikkin Thimmaiah 49) bt BSC, MEG & Centre 1 (Manoranjan Minz 57).

U-17 shuttlers Avi Basak and Jade Anil take the honours

Avi Basak and Jade Anil secured the under-17 boys' and girls' singles titles respectively at the Karnataka State sub-junior badminton championship in Ballari on Wednesday.

The results (finals): U-17: Singles: Boys: Avi Basak bt Prateek Koundilya 21-17, 21-13; **Girls:** Jade Anil bt Suhina Roy 21-18, 21-15.
Doubles: Boys: A.R. Sumith & Chris Anjen Baptist bt P. Sankeerth & Kshitij Deepak 21-17, 21-9; **Girls:** Jade & Diya Bheemaiah bt B.V. Vriddhi Ponnamma & Aditi Deepak Raj 21-16, 21-19.
Mixed doubles: A.R. Sumith & Anvitha Vijay bt Siddharth Gunturi & A.S. Mounitha 21-13, 21-13.
U-15: Singles: Boys: Prateek Koundilya bt M. Pranav 18-21, 21-14, 21-16; **Girls:** Suhina Roy bt Aditi Deepak Raj 21-13, 23-21.
Doubles: Boys: N. Amith Raj & R. Hardik Divyansh bt S. Punith & S. Pavan 15-21, 21-17, 21-18; **Girls:** B.V. Vriddhi Ponnamma & Aditi Deepak Raj bt J.N. Kohana & M.N. Moulya & 21-13, 21-6.
Mixed doubles: N. Amith Raj & Ishika Baruah Kashyap bt P.S. Pradyumna & Lakshya Rajesh 16-21, 21-14, 21-10.

Man City beats Bayern in Tokyo friendly

Goals from James McAtee and Aymeric Laporte gave Manchester City a 2-1 victory over Bayern Munich in Tokyo on Wednesday, and secured the European champion its second win of a pre-season tour in Japan. Mathys Tel was on target for Bayern.

Bhagat and Kadam qualify for Asian Para Games 2023

Ace para-badminton players Pramod Bhagat and Sukant Kadam sealed their place for the Asian Para Games 2023 to be held in China from October 22. Bhagat booked his spot for SL3 singles, SL4 doubles (with Kadam), and mixed doubles (with Manisha Ramdas), while Kadam sealed his places for SL4 singles and doubles.

LIVE TELECAST

BWF: Japan Open, Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6.30 a.m.
Football: Women's World Cup: FanCode, 6.30 a.m. 1 p.m. & 3.30 p.m.
Sri Lanka vs Pakistan: 2nd Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.45 a.m.
The Ashes: 5th Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 5 (SD & HD) & LIV, 3.30 p.m.
UTT: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 7 p.m.
West Indies vs India: 1st ODI, DD Sports, FanCode & Jio Cinema App, 7 p.m.
MLC: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.45 & 5.45 a.m. (Friday)

Mayank and Sai Kishore help South pip West

Skipper comes up with a well-constructed 98 to lift his side past 200 before the bowlers survive a Sarfaraz scare and the Dube-Sheth stand to squeeze out a 12-run win in the marquee clash

DEODHAR TROPHY

S. Dipak Ragav
PUDUCHERRY

Leading the way: Skipper Mayank's 115-ball 98, which contained nine fours, was the highlight of the South innings. S.S. KUMAR

It was the clash of the two most competitive sides of the Deodhar Trophy, and the match lived up to its billing in terms of excitement as South Zone pulled off a heist beating West Zone by 12 runs at the Cricket Association of Puducherry ground here on Wednesday.

Asked to bat first, South Zone was bundled out for just 206, with only skipper Mayank Agarwal waging a lone battle making a well-constructed 98 (115b, 9x4). The Karnataka batter was dropped when he was on seven by Parth Bhut at backward point and made the opponents pay for their folly.

Agarwal milked the bowling attack sensibly and showed how to play risk-free cricket, scoring just nine boundaries even as he saw his teammates fritter away their wickets with poor shots.

But the opener would rue how he got out and missed out on a century, needlessly trying to reverse-sweep Bhut (three for 25) only to hit it straight to the backward point fielder.

Defending a modest target, South Zone bowlers fought tooth and nail and pulled off an improbable victory, with Sai Kishore (three for 44) scalping three wickets. However, it was the Karnataka pacers who set it up initially when V. Koushik castled Harvik Desai while Vidwath Kaverappa had Rahul Tripathi leg-before as West slumped to 26 for three.

The big-hitting Sarfaraz (42) started slowly but got West back into the game as he took on the South bowlers.

He began by lofting Vyshak for a six down the ground before upper-cutting the pacer over the keeper in the same over. He then smashed Sai Kishore for a few boundaries. But just when he threatened to take the game away, Vyshak had the batter caught behind down the leg-side.

Atit Sheth (40) and Shivam Dube played sensibly and stitched a 65-run stand for the sixth wicket in which the former was the enforcer. But a moment of indiscretion from Dube cost his wicket as he top-edged trying to slog- sweep Sai Kishore.

It was the opening South was waiting for as Washington Sundar (two for 34) then removed Sheth - trapped leg-before with a quicker one - before cleaning up Sham Mulani in quick succession.

Sai Kishore then completed the job taking the last two wickets as West committed the cardinal sin of being bowled out with more than 13 overs left when victory was within sight.

The scores:
South Zone 206 in 46.4 overs (Mayank Agarwal 98, Parth Bhut 3/25) bt West Zone 194 in 36.4 overs (Sarfaraz Khan 42, Atit Sheth 40, Sai Kishore 3/44).
North Zone 307/8 in 50 overs (Prabhsimran Singh 121, Nitish Rana 51, Mandeep Singh 43) bt Central Zone 259 in 47.4 overs (Shivam Chaudhary 51, Yash Dubey 78, Upendra Yadav 52; Nitish Rana 4/48, Mayank Yadav 3/47).
North East Zone 169 in 48 overs (Rex Rajkumar Singh 65 n.o., Riyan Parag 4/30) lost to East Zone 170/2 in 31.3 overs (Abhimanyu Easwaran 100 n.o.).

Sindhu out early again, Satwik-Chirag advance

JAPAN OPEN

Press Trust of India
TOKYO

P.V. Sindhu made yet another first round exit as she lost in straight games 21-12, 21-13 to Zhang Yi Man of China at the Japan Open here on Wednesday.

Sindhu lost in 32 minutes as she plunged to her seventh first round exit in 13 BWF World Tour events this year.

The former world champion has been a shadow of her past self after her injury rehabilitation and has dropped to world No. 17 after a series of first round exits. She has been error-prone and struggling to finish points even against lower-ranked players.

While Sindhu has been struggling, the in-form doubles pair of Satwiksairaj Rankireddy and Chirag Shetty had no such issues as they beat the Indonesian pair of Leo Rolly Carnando and Daniel Marthin 21-16, 11-21, 21-13 to move into the second round.

Seeded third in the tournament, Satwik and Chirag, who won Korean Open title on Sunday, will face the Denmark duo of Jeppe Bay and Lasse Molhede in the second round.

Lakshya Sen also made a winning start to the BWF Super 750 tournament with a 21-15, 12-21, 24-22 win over Priyanshu Rajawat.

The results (first round): Men: Lakshya Sen bt Priyanshu Rajawat 21-15, 12-21, 24-22; Weng Hong Yang (Chn) bt Mithun Manjunath 13-21, 24-22, 21-18.
Doubles: Satwiksairaj Rankireddy / Chirag Shetty bt Leo Rolly Carnando / Daniel Marthin (Ina) 21-16, 11-21, 21-13.
Women: Zhang Yi Man (Chn) bt P.V. Sindhu 21-12, 21-13.

A rampant Spain and Japan roll into last 16

WOMEN'S WC

Agence France-Presse
AUCKLAND

Rocket strike: Teresa's, centre, thunderbolt zooms into the Zambian goal for Spain's first. REUTERS

Rampant title contender Spain and former champion Japan became the first teams to reach the Women's World Cup last 16 on Wednesday as both won with ease.

Two-time Ballon d'Or winner Alexia Putellas started for Spain following her serious knee injury and played her part in a 5-0 demolition of Zambia.

Japan had been on the brink of reaching the knockout rounds following its 2-0 win over Costa Rica earlier in the day and the Spain result sent both of them sailing through.

Japan and Spain meet on Monday to decide who wins Group C, and with it a theoretically easier draw. Both have a perfect six points from two games and are yet to concede a goal.

Costa Rica and Zambia play the same day in the fight to avoid finishing bottom of the pile.

Barcelona's Putellas came off at half-time at Eden Park in Auckland but Zambia was already dead and buried by then with Spain two goals in front against the lowest-ranked team in Australia and New Zealand.

Teresa Abelleira put Spain ahead after nine minutes with one of the best goals of the tournament yet.

After a neat interchange, the ball came to her on the edge of the box and she slammed it into the top corner.

Jennifer Hermoso made it 2-0 four minutes later and Spain coach Jorge Vilda rang the changes at the break with an eye on the Japan clash and the last 16.

Hermoso scored again in the second half and substitute Alba Redondo also got a brace as Spain added gloss to the scoreline.

The 2011 champions Japan similarly beat an error-prone Costa Rica comfortably.

In the day's last game, Canada recovered from conceding directly from a corner kick to seal a come-from-behind 2-1 win against Ireland.

The results:
Group B: Canada 2 (Connolly 45+5 og, Leon 53) bt Republic of Ireland 1 (McCade 4).
Group C: Japan 2 (Naomoto 25, Fujino 27) bt Costa Rica 0.
Spain 5 (Abelleira 9, Hermoso 13, 70, Redondo 69, 85) bt Zambia 0.

Oh gosh! O'Callaghan has an incredulous look on her face after the record-setting swim in the 200m freestyle. WORLD AQUATICS

O' Callaghan smashes 14-year-old record

WORLD SWIMMING

Reuters
FUKUOKA

Australia's Mollie O'Callaghan finished with a flourish to break the longest-standing world record in women's swimming, claiming the 200 metres freestyle title in a time of one minute, 52.85 seconds at the World Aquatics Championships on Wednesday.

O'Callaghan broke the performance-enhancing bodysuit era mark of 1:52.98 set by Italian Federica Pellegrini at the 2009 worlds in Rome and was 0.16 seconds ahead of silver medallist Ariarne Titmus of Australia. Summer McIntosh of Canada was 0.80 seconds behind to take bronze in a world junior record time.

In the men's 200m butterfly event, Frenchman Leon Marchand captured his second gold in 1:52.43 ahead of Poland's Krzysztof Chmielewski (1:53.62) and local favourite Tomoru Honda (1:53.66).

Other results: Men: 50m breaststroke: 1. Qin Haiyang (Chn) 26.29s, 2. Nic Fink (USA) 26.59, 3. Sun Jiajun (CHn) 26.79; **800m freestyle:** Ahmed Hafnaoui (Tun) 7:37.00, 2. Sam Short (Aus) 7:37.76, 3. Bobby Finke (USA) 7:38.67; **4x100 medley:** 1. China 3:38.57, 2. Australia 3:39.03, 3. USA 3:40.19.

daCunha/AB/888

Wrestling federation elections expected to be an interesting affair

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

The much-awaited Wrestling Federation of India (WFI) elections may become an interesting affair with outgoing president Brijbhushan Sharan Singh's camp trying to keep its flock together and three surprise names in the Electoral College (EC) potentially threatening the former WFI chief's stronghold over the federation.

Some leading wrestlers, including Olympic medallists Bajrang Punia, Sakshi Malik and Worlds medallist Vinesh Phogat, who sought the end of Brijbhushan – who is facing different charges including sexual harassment – and his family members' control over the WFI, ended their long-drawn agitation following their meetings with Home Minister Amit Shah and Sports Minister Anurag Thakur.

Some names in the WFI EC, released on Tuesday, have raised eyebrows. These include Railways Sports Promotion Board (RSPB) secretary Prem Chand Lochab, a bureaucrat who was a link between the protesting wrestlers and the government, from Gujarat, Haryana hotelier and BJP member Devender from Assam (which moved the Gauhati High Court demanding WFI membership and got the elections stayed before being granted affiliation by the ad-hoc committee on July 22) and Commonwealth Games gold medallist Anita, who hails from Haryana and was a witness in the sexual harassment case, from Odisha (through the State association's channel). There is a possibility of the three standing for key posts in the federation's elections, scheduled on August 12.

"The way some names entered the voters' list suggests it was pre-planned," said a State association member belonging to the Brijbhushan camp.

Since the names of Brijbhushan, who completed his three-term tenure, and his son Karan Bhushan, who was earlier projected as his father's successor, are absent in the EC, the former WFI chief cannot have direct control over WFI. However, the possibility of his indirect control through some of his close aides, including Sanjay Singh from Uttar Pradesh and Jai Prakash from Delhi, cannot be ruled out.

As per the WFI constitution, an affiliated State or Union Territory unit of the WFI can nominate two persons who are members of its executive body for constituting the EC and persons whose names are included in the EC can file nominations for elections.

While the Brijbhushan camp is keen to maintain its control over WFI, a member of the wrestling fraternity, who is keeping a close watch on the developments, said a balanced formula might be devised to accommodate those who are seen as 'wrestlers' representatives'.

Santosh Trophy: Bengal clubbed with Punjab and Haryana

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Bengal, the record 32 times champions, has been placed in tough Group B along with heavyweights Punjab and Haryana in the Santosh Trophy groupings that was unveiled here on Wednesday.

Odisha, Delhi and Ladakh are the three other teams in Group B. Thirty-six teams have been divided into six groups.

The toppers along with four runners-up will join defending champions Karnataka and runners-up Meghalaya in the Final Round of the 77th National Football Championship for the Santosh Trophy.

The groupings: A: Kerala, Goa, Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Arunachal Pradesh, J&K; **B:** Punjab, Haryana, Odisha, Delhi, Ladakh, Bengal; **C:** Manipur, Jharkhand, TN, Nagaland, UP, MP; **D:** Railways, Bihar, Chandigarh, Rajasthan, Assam, HP; **E:** Services, Uttarakhand, Mizoram, Pondicherry, Sikkim, Dadra and Nagar Haveli & Daman and Diu; **F:** Maharashtra, Telangana, Andaman & Nicobar, AP, Lakshadweep, Tripura.